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# B O W E N

THE ANCESTRY

OF

GRIFFITH BOWEN OF "BURRYHEAD"

LLANGENYDD PARISH, GLAMORGAN COUNTY, WALES

AND

ONE LINE OF AMERICAN DESCENDANTS

THROUGH THE

BOWENS OF WOODSTOCK, CONNECTICUT

AND THE

BOWENS OF CHARLESTOWN, NEW HAMPSHIRE

by

Georgene E. Bowen





FOREWORD

The following record has been compiled over a period of twenty-four years as opportunity offered in leisure time and travel.

It started at a pier in Japan in 1936 while the writer was waiting with other impatient greeters for an incoming boat to dock. To kill time, a stranger with a British accent engaged me in conversation. "My name is Bowen"... he began. "And so is mine!" I quickly responded. We were surprised and amused, to say the least.

Where did our family come from, he wanted to know. I couldn't tell him much. I had heard that we came from Wales. There was a Bowen genealogy somewhere but I had never taken the time or trouble to look into it. I didn't realize it just then, but the "bug" of curiosity had bitten me. There was no way of knowing to what lengths it would eventually lead me in terms of time, energy and travel.

At first it was a marginal interest. The data collected when I returned to the States had to do only with the American Bowen ancestors. Wherever I traveled in New England, I took pictures, interviewed aged relatives, read histories, visited cemeteries and looked up local or county records. At best, it was a hobby, pursued only when the spirit infrequently moved. But then World War II struck. Its stringent curtailment brought leisure and personal travel to an end. The records would have been left at that point but for an impromptu "Journey to Wales" in 1954. After that, the tempo of research greatly increased.

The College of Arms in London was much interested in tying in the modern American line with their Ancient Welsh records. They urged that affidavits be submitted of every birth, death and marriage of each American ancestor in line. It meant collecting our records for the last 200 years. This task was finally completed in 1957 when I made my second visit to the College of Arms. That year I visited the National Library of Wales and revisited three of the localities in Glamorganshire and Breconshire in Wales where our ancient family had flourished.

The writer has done her best to set down American and Welsh records as she found them. But there were many discrepancies. When found, the legal version, cemetery records and family records in America sometimes disagreed. When they did, the legal record was used. Welsh records were also difficult because of variations in spelling. For instance, Griffudd was also spelled Griffith; Llangenwydd and Llangennith were spelled differently by different historians. In the coat of arms, the stag held an oak branch, an olive branch or a trefoil, according to the expert giving his opinion. The present official at the National Library of Wales does not agree with the spelling in the pedigree certified by an official in College of Arms in 1896. However,

historians may disagree on spelling, there is no doubt that the names can be identified by either the College of Arms or by the National Library of Wales. In most cases the writer had to make a choice and try to be consistent in that spelling, no matter how the authorities disagreed. (She failed).

The writer has compiled this material primarily for the use of her nieces and nephews and their children. Copies of it will be placed in some of the genealogical libraries for the information of any interested person to whom these records may be helpful.

Georgene E. Bowen

1612 Pine Street  
Philadelphia, Pa,  
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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Journey to Wales

Pedigree of Griffith Bowen of "Burryhead"

Authority for Griffith Bowen's Pedigree

The Coat of Arms

Three Members of the Ancient Welsh Family

Bleddyn ap Maenarch, Lord of Brecknock  
Griffith ap Owen of "West Slade"

The Affray  
Oxwich Church  
Oxwich Castle

Griffith Bowen of "Burryhead"

Griffith Bowen's Homes  
Griffith Bowen's Churches

American Descendants of Griffith Bowen

The Bowens of Woodstock, Conn.  
Generations I through V

The Bowens of Charlestown, N. H.  
Generations VI through XI

The Willard-Way, Upham-Glassman Branches





## J O U R N E Y   T O   W A L E S

At last I was going to Europe! It might well be my last chance to see England. Could I break away from the scientific purpose and itinerary of our study tour on the continent and pursue my private interests for a few days? Despite the doubt, I bought a map of England and Wales and began to play with the idea of breaking away from our party and dashing down to Glamorganshire on the Gower Peninsula in Wales. For, from that area our first American ancestor, Griffith Bowen, came in 1638.

I felt a little wicked at the thought. My father would have been openly embarrassed at this flight from reality and humility. To him, geneology was a lot of nonsense. He believed one was respected only if one worked and earned respect - if one led an upright life. Ancestors had nothing to do with it. His attitude reflected three generations of rugged life on the unyielding hill farm where he was brought up. There, one worked from before dawn to sunset to eke out a living from rock-strewn pastures and virgin timber land.

In towns and urban communities where we later lived geneology was not discussed except by old maids or aged historians. Few families possessed records as far back as the 17th Century and this was understandable. When early and modern refugees or settlers came to American shores as refugees or colonists, or crossed the plains and mountains as pioneers, few records could be carried with them. Families like ours that had long records seldom discussed them. It would be inconsiderate of others to do so. Our records were laid away and all but forgotten.

I felt not only wicked now but a little crazy. To go back to Wales 316 years after our first ancestor emigrated seemed the height of futility. What could I possibly find or see? Well, the hills and valleys, the rivers and roads might be the same. Then, how could I begin my search after I got to the Gower Peninsula? Could I hire a taxi and have it take me on trips around the countryside? With no informed person to talk to on such a journey, what could I learn? I could at least get the feeling of the present-day people and see what they are like. Perhaps I could run into a folk festival somewhere. There was little likelihood it could be managed, of course.

Nevertheless, "just in case", I took one small envelope of material from the dormant geneological records that had been compiled by scholars in the Woodstock, Connecticut branch of our family. They published a geneology in 1897 which gave the lineage outline of Griffith Bowen back to King Beli Mawr, 55 B.C. In collaboration with J. D. Davies, Gower's most famous historian, Edward A. Bowen had pieced together the Wales and American records. I took four pages of excerpts and the lineage outline from the Woodstock geneology.

The excerpts told briefly of the founder of our American family, who lived in Llangennith, and about his great-grandfather, Griffith ap Owen\*, who lived in Slade. Neither Llangennith nor Slade were on my map. Were the towns still in existence, I wondered, as I selected two photographs taken by some of the Woodstock Bowens in 1927. They were views of white stone farmhouses that stood on the sites of the homes of these two ancestors. It occurred to me that I could show these photographs, once I got to the Gower Peninsula, and ask where these farms are. These items and an illegible map of Wales were included in my limited airplane luggage.

\* ap Owen = son of Owen; elided, in the 16th Century, "ap Owen" became "Bowen"

One afternoon, during the Congress sessions in London, I found the opportunity to take a couple of hours to visit the College of Arms, where Griffith Bowen's pedigree was said to be recorded. Upon advice of one of the British Congress officials, I learned that the person I should talk with at the College was the "Rouge Dragon."

"You can't be serious", I said to my advisor. She laughed. "Oh, yes, quite serious. That is his title. His name is Mr. Robin de La Lanne-Mirrlees. But you ask for 'The Rouge Dragon' and he will be glad to help you." We made the appointment for that very afternoon.

Outside the College of Arms, I took time to marvel that the building was still standing, for it is in a section of Queen Victoria Street that had been almost wiped out in the bombing. The building next to the College was destroyed and for several blocks beyond nothing remained but ruined foundations. I paused another minute before ascending the steps. What did one say to a Rouge Dragon? How was one supposed to address him? As it turned out, it was his secretary, Miss Davies, who greeted me. The Dragon had just stepped out.

I told Miss Davies that I understood there was a record of Griffith Bowen of Llangennith, Wales in the College and that I would be very grateful if she could show it to me. I handed her the lineage outline and the excerpts. After looking at them hastily she began to put me into a frame of mind prepared to meet disappointment. "We will look and see what we can find", she began cautiously. "But we do not have any records here that have not been absolutely authenticated. There has to be a written record before it can be accepted in the College of Arms. In this respect, Welsh records are generally difficult to establish because their pedigrees were carried by word of mouth, from generation to generation, and they were not usually recorded in ancient times. However, we will go and see."

Together we went into a room with a high ceiling and dark panelled walls. In the panelling, near the ceiling, were various coats of arms. There were occasional spears and pieces of knightly armor about the room. From there, we went into an inner chamber, the walls of which were filled with shelves of huge books. Miss Davies went to a shelf, took down a large volume and laid it on a book-bar at one end of the room. Then presently she found it. At the top of a parchment page was Griffith Bowen's silver shield, a red stag lodged, holding a trefoil in his mouth. Under it was his pedigree beginning with Griffith Gŵyr ap Cadivor. Miss Davies estimated that this man must have been alive as early as 1200 A.D.

I looked at the pages with their unfamiliar handwriting and felt dazzled. Miss Davies stood beside me in silence. "The fact that this record is here, then, means that my ancestors' records are authentic?" I asked her.

"Oh, yes", she replied. "There can be no question about it."

"I would like to ask about this shield", I continued. "Why are there no arms below it and no filigrees above the shield, as in so many other coats of arms?"

"I think you should be happy that it is so plain", she said. "Only the very ancient families have plain shields. That proves it is an old family. It wasn't until later that the other details were added."



I was not permitted to touch the book, nor to have it taken to a table where I could study it. "It is not permitted", Miss Davies explained. But I left the College of Arms in a much stronger position than I had entered it. Now, I knew that Griffith Bowen and his ancestors' records were as authentic as the Woodstock cousins said they were.

Before we hastened out of London a few days later on our European study tour, I was able to establish the fact that I could get to the Gower Peninsula in four or five hours out of Paddington Station in London. The question was still - WHERE in Gower would I get off the train, if I went. I looked at my illegible map with names of places spelled in unintelligible ways, and figured that I'd head for Cardiff, in Glamorganshire, near the border of Wales. I could begin there. So, whenever I met Englishmen along our route in Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Switzerland or Germany, I asked them who in Cardiff would be willing to talk to me. Who could help me find the area on Gower from which our family came? They treated my questions with genuine concern and helpfulness. The consensus was that if I would write to and visit the Town Clerk in Cardiff, he would be glad to help me.

We were in Switzerland, on the last lap of our tour, when I made up my mind. I would go to Wales. We all had plane reservations to London anyway, but while the rest of the party spent four days in Paris, I'd go right through to London and embark on my "sentimental journey" to Wales. I wrote to the Town Clerk of Cardiff and told him I was coming, and why. I made reservations by wire at a Cardiff hotel.

In London a few days later, I checked my suitcase and with but a few possessions in an overnight bag, boarded the third class of a train bound for Cardiff and Swansea. I wanted to be close to the grass roots I decided from the start. How else could I get to know the people? I would sit in my third class compartment, relax and get the "feeling" of their personalities.

It was not as easy as I thought. In our section there was one small boy, two women in their thirties and a man. The two women talked so quietly their conversation was inaudible. The personable and proper young man opposite me buried himself in his reading. I watched the countryside from the train window. We might have been in almost any rural country except that some of the farms had thatched roofs and, as we progressed, I could see farm houses of whitened rubble that resembled the farm buildings in the photographs in my envelope. Probably there were thousands of farms like them in Gower, I thought.

Finally, I decided to break the ice in our compartment. I'd clearly have to if I were to learn anything; so, I took out my map, leaned forward and addressed the young man. I told him why I was going to Wales and asked his advice about how I might find information. Instantly the two women were listening to my story and all three adult passengers became interested and began to offer advice. They all agreed that it would be a waste of time to stop at Cardiff and that I should go one and one-half hour's ride further on to Swansea. "We know that area well", said one of the women. "We live there. If you go on to Swansea you will be almost at your destination. If you stop at Cardiff tonight, you can't see the Town Clerk until morning and by that time you'd still be one and one-half hours from where you want to go."



I considered the logic of her argument and the honesty of her face. "One trouble is", I said, "I have reservations at a hotel in Cardiff. If I go on to Swansea, it will be eleven o'clock tonight when we arrive. By then, I may not be able to find a room."

"Oh, don't worry about that", said Ellen. "My brother is going to meet us at the train with his car. We'll take you and your bag and help you find a room. We won't leave you until you do find one." I took another look at her face. She was serious and sincere. I thanked her and thought some more.

"There is one more problem", I said. "I haven't any British money. I can't pay the additional fare unless the conductor will take traveler's checks or American dollars. Do you think he will?" I turned one shilling and a few pence from my purse into my hand with a hopeless gesture. "That won't take me to Swansea."

"I have some money that I'll be glad to lend you tonight and you can pay me back tomorrow", offered Ellen. "If you feel that you must get off at Cardiff, just tell me what train you'll come on tomorrow and we'll meet you. Or, if you come on to Swansea tonight, we'll meet you tomorrow and you can pay us then." I took a third look at this unbelievably trusting little woman. How could I ever explain to her that she was a rare and beautiful person. She wouldn't have believed me. It was obvious that she was being her customary self. I could only thank her. I could also unhesitatingly take her advice and go right through to Swansea. The conservative and city-bred young man made it obvious that he thought I was taking a chance. But I was secure in my faith in Ellen Checkley.

At Swansea station, true to Ellen's word, her brother, Cuthbert, was waiting with his car. He put me in the front seat beside him while Ellen explained the situation. "Now don't get out", Cuthbert said. "I'll go in first and see if they have a room." He made three attempts at various hotels before he announced "they have just one room left here. It isn't the best hotel, but it is at least clean and safe. In the morning you may be able to find a better one."

On the train to Swansea Ellen had told me, "My brother is a history teacher. He is very interested in antiquity and he'll be glad to help you." Now at the hotel, her brother said, "If you will lend me your family records, I'll go to the library in the morning and see what information I can find. At 10:30 I'll come for you at the hotel and we'll spend the rest of the day driving around Gower and see some of the country where your ancestors lived. That will give you time to go to the bank and get some money and look for a better hotel room." I tried to discuss paying him for his services and for the use of his car. He wouldn't consider it. "It will be a pleasure", he assured me.

The next morning, Cuthbert Checkley met me in the lobby, his face alight. He was a short, slender young man in severe and somber clothing. He was every inch the quiet, self-effacing school teacher. Behind his demeanor was a well-ordered mind that knew exactly where it was going. "I have looked up the records in the library and, I must say, yours are very accurate. They agree with ours. You may wish to go to the library in the morning and read them yourself. You will find them in J. D. Davies' History of West Gower, Part IV. Your pedigree is on page 340. The history of the Bowen family is found on pages 345 to 378. But this morning, if you are willing, we'll start out for Oxwich first." He took a clear and small map out of his pocket and showed me just where we would go. Slade, where Griffith ap Owen lived in 1557, was in Oxwich Parish.



There was much of antiquity that remained, he said, but how could I have dreamed that it had the distinction of being an unspoiled medieval village; Norman church and castle, village green, thatched peasant cottages, and ancient footpaths bordered with high stone walls that date back 1,000 years or more?

"Let us go first to the Oxwich Church", said Cuthbert. And we did. It was tucked away under the lee of a cliff of Oxwich Bay. We left the car and approached it by passing through an ingenious revolving gate. Then we followed an ancient, winding path with ivy-grown walls to the church entrance in a square, massive, embattled tower. Passing through the base of the tower, we entered into the tiny nave of the church that was so narrow, it had but four seats either side of the center aisle, ten rows on either side. It could hold but eighty persons when it was filled to capacity. The walls were plain and unadorned. Where once candles had lighted the dim little church, there were now kerosene lamps hanging from the ceiling. In the north wall of the chancel was a tomb of the Norman Lord de la Mare and his lady. Their recumbent figures, sculptured in the stone, are said to date back to around 1100 A.D. The church is the only one in the area. It was built by the Normans 500 years before Griffith ap Owen attended it in the 1500's. Nine hundred years of history were difficult to grasp. I had been on hallowed ground before but this was very personal. It was hard to tear myself away.

It was Cuthbert's hope that we might find the vicar of Oxwich Church in the parsonage nearby. It was generally agreed by all the British to whom I talked that the vicar in each parish would have the records, if any existed, and would be willing to look them up for me. So we stopped at the parsonage and made an appointment to see him the following day. But we were not through. Cuthbert had the idea it would be wonderful if I could meet elderly Lady Evelyn Blythswood who lived alone in nearby Penrice Castle. She had a special connection with our family Cuthbert had found out. The question was: What was the best approach to make to the Lady?

Undaunted and single-minded as ever, Cuthbert Checkley drove to Penrice Castle's gatekeeper and talked it over there. They said Lady Blythswood was very busy because her grandchildren and great-grandchildren were visiting her at the moment. But since the vicar knew her very well, he might be willing to intercede in our behalf. We decided then and there to ask him on the morrow.

There was one more place we ought to see while we were in Oxwich. We would now go in search of Griffith ap Owen's home site in Slade. "May I see that photograph again?", said Mr. Checkley. "It can't be far away, I'll inquire."

We drove up and down some narrow, winding, wall-lined roads, hoary with age and canopied with trees until it became too narrow for motoring. The young history teacher took the photograph and knocked at a farmhouse door. Presently he was back with the answer. "It is up here. Do you mind walking?" Did I mind!

Up a little lane, across two pastures, and through two farm fences to the top of the hill overlooking Oxwich Bay, we came upon one of the ubiquitous white rubble farm houses. "Is this it?" asked Mr. Checkley. We stood in front of the building and compared it carefully with the photograph.

"This is the same building", I said in awe. "It seems incredible."



"Now I'll see if the present tenants know whether anything remains of Griffith ap Owen's manor house that they could show us", he said. When he knocked, the tenant's wife, Mrs. J. H. Davies, came to the door in her apron. It seemed highly doubtful that she would know who owned this property 400 years ago. But she did.

"We have lived here for fourteen years", she said. "But I didn't know until last year that it had once belonged to Griffith ap Owen. An old lady who lives nearby came over one day and told us." We showed her the snapshot taken in 1927. "Yes", she said, "this is our farm."

"Who lived on this farm before you came?" I asked.

"Well, before we came a Mr. Ashton lived here and before him the tenant was Mr. Francis Tucker."

That checked perfectly with the Woodstock genealogy, which said that Tucker lived on the farm in 1892. It seemed unbelievable that it was so easy to establish this farm as Griffith ap Owen's residence. However, in Slade, and in Oxwich Parish, which is still a sparsely settled community, it was no problem at all. Certainly, with the young history teacher leading the way, it proved to be quickly solved.

"I'd gladly show you anything there is here that might be that old", said Mrs. Davies. "But there is nothing left that we know about except this stone over here."

She led the way to a stone object deeply embedded in the farm mud and weeds. Only its top protruded. It was clearly a very ancient stone object, long and hollowed out on top. It might once have been a watering trough she thought. It seemed credible.

Up until now, I was the one who was pleased and excited, trying to take pictures in the rain and asking many questions. When Mrs. Davies realized that I was a descendant of Griffith ap Owen, it was her turn to be excited. "Just think", she mused. "Just think!"

That night at the hotel I avidly read a copy of "Gower", the Journal of the Gower Society, that Cuthbert Checkley had given me earlier in the day. It explained that the Society was founded in 1948 as a local preservation organization to collect historic material and folklore of Gower and to preserve its ancient footpaths, bays, and castles. In 1949 the Society concentrated on saving and preserving the Oxwich Castle. For that reason, the second volume of Gower, published in that year, was largely devoted to Oxwich Castle, past and present. It was in this publication that I first learned of Griffith ap Owen's connection with the castle and its owner, Sir Rice Mansel.

"On St. Stephen's Day (December 26) 1557, Richard Cosin, the parson of Oxwich and his guests - a select little group of parish notabilities headed by Griffith ap Owen, steward to Sir Rice Mansel, - were sitting down to a midday meal", the story begins. "A savage westerly gale howled about the chimneys and hurled mighty breakers against the rocks only a few yards away from the parson's door. The meal was only half finished when, all of a sudden, a commotion was heard outside. Into the room came a pathetic straggle of drenched and exhausted

sailors."\*

They proved to be the crew of a French trader that had gone aground in the storm. France was then at war with England so the Frenchmen were taken prisoners and the 'notables' hastened to secure their cargo as a prize. They quickly made way with the figs, raisins, almonds and wool and removed the available fittings and timbers from the vessel as well.

When this news was reported to Sir George Herbert of Swansea, he was very angry. As steward of the Earl of Worcester and Vice Admiral of the Crown, he had a lively interest in all wrecks along Gower Coast. He first dispatched two servants and then went himself to the Oxwich parsonage to demand his right to the cargo. It was finally agreed to put such French goods as the vicar had in the Oxwich Church for safety.

Sir George then made his way to Oxwich Castle where Sir Rice Mansel and his son lived. There he was told that Sir Rice might be at Griffith ap Owen's house in Slade. When he arrived Griffith expressed surprise, although he had already sent a warning to Sir Rice Mansel about Sir George's intention. "How now, my lord, I had not thought to see you venture abroad in such a foul weather", Griffith said.

While Griffith ap Owen and others gave Sir George 'the run around', he angrily seized as much of the booty and as many of the prisoners as he could find. Then, still frustrated, he laid in wait near Oxwich Castle for Sir Rice's return. Instead, his aunt, Anne Mansel, approached Sir George and tried to reach an amicable agreement between the two knights. Nevertheless, they and their retainers came to verbal blows at the Oxwich Castle gate and, in the conflict, one of Sir George's men hurled a stone which struck Anne Mansel in the forehead. Sir George's company, ashamed at having shed a woman's blood, withdrew in dismay. But Anne Mansel soon died of her wounds.

Sir Rice Mansel then brought action in April 1558 against Sir George Herbert and his men in the Star Chamber Court on charges of riot and forcible entry. The court found Sir George and his party guilty. They were afterwards to stand trial at common law for their part in killing Anne Mansel but what the outcome of that trial was has not yet been ascertained.

So now I knew not only that Griffith ap Owen had been alive in 1557, but that he was Sir Rice Mansel's steward. He now became as real a person to me as he evidently was to Gower's historians.

Because the "Affray at Oxwich Castle" was brought into the Star Chamber Court and every word of testimony recorded and preserved, there exists a crystal clear account of who Griffith ap Owen was, where he lived, of his association with the vicar of Oxwich Church, the position he held under Sir Rice Mansel, and of the words he used in conversation during the Affray and in testimony in court.

I could scarcely wait until morning to go to the library and read J. D. Davies' History of West Gower before I met the vicar or saw the Oxwich Castle. Besides, I did not want to disappoint the young history teacher by not studying his assignment.



At the library, I opened the History of West Gower, Volume IV, and found the pedigree and checked it for accuracy there. Beginning with Griffith Gwyr ap Cadivor ap Gwgan ap Blethin ap Maenarsh,\*1, it agreed with our American records except in the matter of the spelling of a few names. I had already learned that Welsh names and towns were spelled in different ways, since it is almost impossible to transfer Welsh sounds into English. There was a fuller account of the Oxwich episode in Davies' History than the condensation in "Gower" but there was not time to read it all. Cuthbert Checkley would soon be calling for me again at the hotel.

As we headed for Oxwich parsonage I already knew that the vicar did not have our family records. My reading at the library revealed that the parish records up to 1800 had been transferred to St. David's Cathedral. If the vicar could not produce the records, he could intercede for me with Lady Blythswood.

To meet her suddenly became the most important thing in life. She is a descendant of Sir Rice Mansel. What fun it would be to reestablish a 400 year old family connection! More than this, Lady Blythswood is an older person, living out a lonely existence in a remote castle. In this and in other ways, it seemed likely that she shared many problems in common with older people who live in single rooms in Philadelphia or many other American communities.

After we chatted awhile with the vicar in his study, Cuthbert Checkley put the request honestly to him. Would he ask Lady Blythswood if she would see me? He would, and he did.

At his telephone the vicar inquired solicitously, "If her Ladyship is not too busy, may I speak to her?" When she came to the phone, he worded his request carefully. "Your Ladyship, I have a Miss Bowen here in my study from the States. She is a descendant of Griffith ap Owen who was the steward of your ancestor, Sir Rice Mansel, in 1557. She would like very much to meet you, if only for five minutes, before she returns to London tomorrow." Pause. "Are you sure it would be quite convenient, even if she could see you for only three minutes?... Then she will come this afternoon at three o'clock. Thank you very much, your Ladyship."

We had to hurry if we were to see Oxwich Castle first. It was raining again as we made our way along another narrow, ancient footpath to a pasture outside the castle walls. This Tudor castle is said to be "unique in Wales because it shows the evolutionary development of the purely military castle into the defended mansion, with the segregation of the Lord's retainers from the family." \*2

The castle was built in the 16th Century by Sir Rice Mansel and lived in until 1917. It was now neglected and partly in ruins. Its walls were smothered in a profuse growth of vines and shrubs but much of the six-storied Keep where Sir Rice lived and the gatehouse with his coat of arms sculptured in stone were still standing. It was at this very gate where the "Affray" came to its unhappy climax in 1557.

\*1 History of West Gower, Vol. IV, page 163-197

Griffith Gwyr (c 1200), son of Cadivor, son of Gwgan, son of Blethin (c 1091) son of Maenarsh (c late 900 or early 1000)

\*2 Gower, Vol. II

Before the Tudor Mansels built this present castle, the Normans in the 11th century had a castle on the same site, of which part of the base of the Keep Tower and the columbarium still remain. I took pictures of the Keep, the gatehouse, and the columbarium where the Normans kept and raised pigeons for food.

Barbed wire and a sign forbade entrance to the castle until its restoration makes it safe again for visitors. Nevertheless, we picked our way through nettles and undergrowth to get a better view of the impressive structure. Even if we could not enter, we could people it in imagination with lords and ladies, servants and retainers - and especially with one steward named Griffith ap Owen.

It was fortunate for me that "Oxwich Castle is the best beloved and most visited of all our Gower castles."\* Perhaps this is true because the "Affray" is so minutely and dramatically recorded that other visitors, like myself, can picture its activities in their mind's eye. For the "Affray" is now a well-known incident in the early history of Gower.

Wiping the mud from my feet and adjusting my hat, I set off again with Cuthbert Checkley to meet Lady Blythswood at Penrice Castle. En route we passed "Hangman's Cross", the place to which all lanes and roads seemed to lead, making it easy for the ancient inhabitants to gather to witness public hangings. Perish the thought!

Suddenly, I felt a twinge of anxiety about another matter. In a few minutes we would arrive at Penrice Castle, but was I really equipped for the occasion? My clothes were not exactly suited for a castle call. Furthermore, I didn't know the least thing about required etiquette. Should I address Lady Blythswood as "Your Ladyship"? And, if so, when and how often should I use it in conversation?

Ill-equipped as I knew myself to be in many ways, I could not put on airs - even if I knew which ones to put on. I would have to be my natural self. Lady Blythswood would surely feel that I am fond of older people and that I would like to be her friend. Unless she were ill, she would be glad to have a friend. And since she is now confined chiefly to her remote mansion, she would welcome news from another world. I felt sure, too, that she would be interested in the fact that our ancestors had once been friends.

It was no time to argue any more with myself. We were driving up the road; the Penrice Castle buildings were in full view. The old castle, I learned, dates back to the late 12th or early 13th century. The new mansion, built below it, in which Lady Blythswood lives, was built around 1760 by Thomas Mansel Talbot, Esquire, who proceeded to fill it with paintings and treasures imported from the continent.

We drew up before the entrance and presently the door swung open. A young man invited us in. As I entered, a tiny, elderly lady stood in the center of the reception hall. She was Lady Evelyn Blythswood, with a smile of welcome on her face. After a friendly greeting she led the way to her living room. With its comfortable chairs and homey furniture, it appeared to be the room in which she spent most of her time. Her attractive young granddaughter sat there holding her six months old daughter. The young man who opened the door proved to be her grandson. She motioned me to a chair by her side and we fell into conversation as easily as though we had always been friends.

\* Gower, Vol. II



Lady Blythswood wanted to know what had brought me to Wales and I told her. "How very clever of you", she said when I explained that I came over to give a paper at the Gerontological Congress. When I told her about our tour of other countries, she wanted to know which country was most advanced in its care and planning for older people.

We soon began to talk about our ancestors and the Affray at Oxwich Castle in 1557. "Sometime ago we had a folk festival and each parish portrayed an incident from its past. Oxwich enacted the Affray at Oxwich Castle as its part of the program", she said.

"Oh, I wish I could have seen it", I replied. "I hope they saved the script so it can be repeated again sometime."

"Oh, they did", she assured me.

"Would you like to see a picture of Sir Rice Mansel"? she asked. When I said I would, she led the way back to the reception hall and pointed to a portrait. "That is Sir Rice and his family", she said. It was one of the largest portraits on the wall and the oldest. "I don't think he really wore clothing like that," she confided. "I think the artist painted the clothing he himself liked." I studied the portrait intently.

"Would you like to see another"? said Lady Blythswood. Leading the way to another portrait-hung room, she told about the history of some of her other ancestors.

Suddenly she turned and asked eagerly, "What was it like to fly across the ocean"? "It was a wonderful experience", I said, "May I tell you about it"?

"Yes, do", she answered and led the way back to our comfortable chairs in her living room.

While I tried to describe how it felt to fly into the dawn, high over the Atlantic Lady Blythswood's grandson and Cuthbert Checkley came into the room with their arms filled with historical books and records. They spread themselves and the books on the floor where even the granddaughter joined them. All the young people became absorbed in the records.

"Wouldn't you like some sherry"? someone asked and it was then that I looked at my watch. Lady Blythswood and I had visited for an hour. As soon as possible, therefore, I said I thought we should go. In a sort of daze I took my leave. I don't remember just how I did it. But I do remember the grandson and the granddaughter's husband waving to us from the doorway of the mansion.

The second day of my journey to Gower was drawing to a close. There was barely enough time before dark to drive a few miles northwest to Llangennith where the founder of our American Family, Griffith Bowen, lived, worshipped, and held office before 1638. There was just time to reach Llangennith Church before dark. Unless we went there now, I might never again have the opportunity of seeing it. I learned that it had significance in the history and folklore of the Gower Peninsula.

Historians are quite certain there was an ancient church here that was destroyed

by Scandinavian marauders in 986 A.D. The present church was constructed on the same location around the end of the eleventh or the beginning of the twelfth century as a part of a cloister. Of the group of ancient buildings only the priory church, which served also as a parish church, remains intact. With its saddleback tower, it is the largest of the Gower churches. It was impressive as it stood against the setting sun.

In the dim, gray light within the church Cuthbert Checkley and I used a flashlight to see the details of the treasures we knew the edifice contained. There was another tombstone effigy of one of the Norman lords of Gower. By his costume and the position of his hand on his sword he is identified as a Crusader. Vandals had broken off the lower part of the legs but otherwise it was in excellent condition considering the 800 years or more it had rested there.

In 1091 the Normans conquered Gower and it became one of the marchlands from which they defended Christendom. They built Gower's numerous castles and married Welsh women. The greater legacy of their Cambro-Norman offspring was the churches they built. The Llangennith Church was one of these.

Against the wall of the nave, near the entrance and behind a barrier, was the ancient "Stone of Cennydd", a relic of the Dark Ages. By standing on our tiptoes and using a flashlight, we could discern its deeply carved Celtic tracery. It is believed to have been set up in front of the original church which was destroyed in the 10th century. Local lore insists it is the tombstone of Cennydd, a sixth century Celtic saint. The village of Llangennith is named for him and he was Gower's best-known saint.

The history of Griffith Bowen's town goes back to the Dark Ages - and before. His church was once a part of a medieval cloister. He must have missed this atmosphere of antiquity when he joined the new First Church of Boston on December 6, 1637 and attended services in a thatched roofed building with mud walls. Perhaps that was one reason why he gave up his pioneering venture in the New World in 1649 and returned to his homeland to live - and to die.

The morning of the third day on Gower there were errands to do, such as books, victrola records and pictures to order before Cuthbert Checkley escorted me to the office of the South Wales Evening Post. He said that the local paper was interested in my experience. They wanted to interview me and to take my picture. He took no chances that they would make a mistake in the facts of the story. He had carefully written them out for the editor.

In the newspaper office, which itself was located within the walls of an ancient castle, the interview took place.

"How did you happen to decide to look up your ancestors"? the Editor asked.

"Because I knew they came originally from the Gower Peninsula in Glamorganshire. I had this outline of our lineage." I handed it to him and said, "It never occurred to me that any of it would be actually traceable. My thought in making this trip was that I could at least see the type of country in which our family had its roots."

We were then directed to a crowded little office where I was asked to take a position in front of the office trash basket and before a wall cluttered with



calendars and miscellaneous notices. "This is where we take all of our pictures", said the photographer, "and this is the camera I've used for twenty-five years." He patted the old camera that, in its category of mechanisms, looked to be as outmoded as a Model T Ford.

We couldn't have been more than five feet away when he held his camera aloft. As I instinctively stepped backwards, I almost sat in the wastebasket.

"Do you mind if I move this away for a moment"? I asked:

"No", he said, "but don't get so far away I can't see you", he cautioned with mock concern.

"I can't remember that anyone has ever had that kind of trouble", I quipped and we all laughed heartily.

Cuthbert had a careful plan for the rest of the day. He wanted to bring his father over to the hotel to meet me for a few minutes. They would leave me to get lunch and to check out of the hotel. Then he would come back with his sister, Ellen, and her friend, Winnie. He would drive us all to Cardiff over an inland route that would permit me to see some of the villages and houses along the way. At Cardiff, they would take me into a castle that was being lived in at the present time.

En route we passed through frequent showers so that some of my pictures of villages had to be taken through the windshield as we drove along. I was intrigued by the scalloped thatches on the roofs of some of the village houses, the walled streets and the ancient inns that we passed. My chief disappointment on this trip was that the stone walls, even on the country roads, were so high that it was impossible to catch a glimpse from the road of the beautiful scenic expanses of ocean and valleys. In Cardiff, we had time to enter the castle grounds and examine the Keep Tower and its moat before going to the station to catch the last train for London.

"Won't you have some tea"? asked Ellen, as they brought it to me in the waiting room. I was sorry the time had come for us to part and I tried to find words to thank them again for all they had done.

It was a wonderful experience, they agreed. "Once in a lifetime", said Ellen. "Yes", echoed Cuthbert, "once in a lifetime."

On the way back to London I pondered long and quietly. It was impossible to break the spell of enchantment. For three days I had been living in the Middle Ages because Gower today does not greatly differ from the Gower of medieval times. It has been untouched by the industrial revolution and is far off the beaten track of most tourists. Indeed, so priceless and ancient are its treasures that it is being considered as a National Park Preservation area.

As I thought about it, I knew that history and the usual sequence of events in both Wales and the United States had paved the pathway along which I made my successful journey back to the Middle Ages. I was grateful for the remote geographical location of Gower that had kept so much of its antiquity intact. I was grateful to the men who had done the research and compiled the geneological records on both sides of the ocean. I was grateful to all the friends who had



given me guidance and help in making the journey. But most of all, I was grateful to a young history teacher in Swansea who knew exactly how to make Gower history and my ancestors live for me once more.

by Georgene E. Bowen

August 1954



PEDIGREE OF GRIFFITH BOWEN  
of Burryhead, Llangennith Parish, Glamorgan County, Wales

1. Beli Mawr, King of Britain, 55 B.C.
2. Amalech
3. Afallach
4. Ywain
5. Difun Brithwain
6. Eifed
7. Amwerid
8. Gorddwfn
9. Dwfn
10. Gwrddoli
11. Doli
12. Gorgain
13. Cain
14. Genethawc
15. Iago
16. Tegid
17. Padarn Beisrudd (5th Century)
18. Edern = Gwenllian, daughter of Coel Godebog, King of Britain
19. Cunedda Wledig
20. Einion Yrth = who had Caer Einion
21. Llyr Merini
22. Caradog Freichfras, Earl of Hereford, = Tegau Eurfron, daughter and heir of  
Lord of Radnor, Lord of the Dolorouse. King Pelinor  
(6th Century)
23. Cawdof, Caradog's oldest son
24. Caw
25. Gloyw
26. Hoyu (circa 640)
27. Cynarch (circa 680)
28. Cyneg (circa 700)
29. Tethwalch
30. Tegid

Pedigree of Griffith Bowen (Cont.)

31. Tangwydd
32. Anaraud (circa 843)
33. Gwngy
34. Kydd (Hwgan), Prince of West Wales
35. Dryffin (circa 944)
36. Maenarch, Lord of Brecknock = Elen, daughter of Einion ap Selyf (circa 1050)
37. Bleddyn ap Maenarch, Lord of Brecknock. Slain in 1091. = Elen, daughter of Tewdwr, King of South Wales; sister of Rhys, founder of the Second Royal Tribe of Wales. He was distinguished by the name "Mawr", or The Great.
38. Gwrgan ap Bleddyn = Gwenllïan, daughter and heir of Philip Gwys
39. Cadifor ap Gwrgan = Mallt, daughter and heir of Llywelyn Fychan, ap Llywelyn, ap Gwrgan, ap Iros, ap Gwyn, ap Collwyn
40. Gruffudd (Griffith) Gŵyr = Catherine D., daughter of Elider ap Einion, Knight of the Sepulcher  
ap Cadifor (circa 1170)
41. Gruffudd ap Gruffudd Gŵyr = Jane, daughter of John Fleming of Monton
42. Hywel ap Gruffudd = Anne, daughter of Gwilym ap Jenkin Grant
43. Hywel Fychan = Catherine, daughter of Jevan Llwyd
44. Gwilym Gam - Gwenllïan, daughter of Gwilym ap Ievan Morgan Fychan (same as f. Jevan Morgan Van)
45. Hywel Melyn of Gŵyr = Catherine, daughter of Gruffudd Llywelyn Foethus
46. Ievan Gŵyr = Daughter of Wilcock Cradoc, his second wife
47. Siencyn (Jenkyn) ap Ievan = Joan, daughter of Gwilym Fychan, Gwilym Philip Urie
48. Owen ap Jenkyn = Alice, daughter of John of Swansea, f. Rosser John of Dyffryn Wysg to Maenarch
49. Gruffudd (Griffith) ap Owen = Anne, daughter of Humphry Bury of Buryrmarbarath alias Bowen of Slade, in Devon County Glamorgan County (circa 1557)
50. Philip Bowen of Slade = Elizabeth, daughter of Hopkin John Vaughn (circa 1583 to 1603)
51. Francis Bowen = Elen, daughter of Thomas Frankleyn; married second time; referred to as "Elen Franklin als Rowe" in 1638
52. Griffith Bowen of Burryhead = Margaret, daughter of Henry Fleming Parish of Llangennith, Glamorgan County (circa 1600 to 1676)

Note: The numbers on the above Pedigree are placed there by the writer for purposes of reference.



## AUTHORITY FOR GRIFFITH BOWEN'S PEDIGREE

King Beli Mawr is a legendary character. No one knows precisely about him. However, from his time (55 B.C.) to the 9th or 10th Century, the names in this line of descent are to be found in Harleian MSS Collection, 3859 at the British Museum.

Up to the 15th Century data on this pedigree<sup>is</sup> to be found in Jesus College MSS, 20 deposited at the Badleran Library, Oxford.

From the Protheroe Collections in the College of Arms and from the Vincent Collections sections of this pedigree are found.

From the #2 to the #15 generation the names in line are purely Celtic. The sub-Roman influence is shown in the name of Genethawc (#14). Roman influence is shown beginning with the name, Iago (#15).

The line of descent from Beli Mawr to Padarn Beisrudd (#17) should be regarded as legendary. "Beisrudd" means a red cloak or tunic.

Cunedda Wledig (#19) led a contingent of North Britains down into Wales. He brought the Welsh language and literature into that part of the world.

Caradog Freichfras (#22) in the 6th Century is regarded as a contemporary of King Arthur.

From Caradog (#22) to Maenarch (#36) thirteen names were omitted from the Pedigree published in the "Lineage of the Bowens of Woodstock, Connecticut" by Edward Augustus Bowen in 1896. The omission was discovered and the omitted names inserted in the Pedigree in July, 1957, through the kindness of Mr. E. D. Jones, Keeper of MSS and Records at the National Library of Wales. In this sequence, taken from the "History of Breckonshire" by Theophilis Jones, Vol. 1, page 66, the assumption is that the line passed from father to son. However, we cannot be sure that they were actual descendants. Since Jones' Collections were made around the year 900 A.D., there are no contemporary records to compare and to prove this line of descent was a direct blood line.

Bleddyn ap Maenarch (#37) was the last Celtic Lord of Brycheiniog, also called Brecknock. He was slain by the sword in a battle waged near the village of Brecon in 1091 A.D. The site of the battle is believed to be Y Gaer, a Roman legionary fortress of about 50 acres which was garrisoned around the year 100 A.D. Bleddyn and his brother-in-law Rhys ap Tewdwr were slain by the conquering Normans under Bernard de Neufmarche (Newmarch).

Gwrgan (#38) tried to recover his father's losses but he was also defeated.

To summarize the complete line:

From #1 to #17, regarded as legendary.

From #17 to #36, "a high degree of probability" of historic succession; may or may not be blood line.

From #36 to #40, may be traced historically; blood line.

From #40 thru XI, American generation of the Bowens of Charlestown, N. H.; descendants are legally recorded in the College of Arms, London, in Norfolk 27, beginning page 75. These authenticated records extend from 1170 to 1960 A.D.

### Authority for Griffith Bowen's Pedigree (Cont.)

We are indebted to Mr. E. D. Jones, Keeper of the MSS and Records at the National Library of Wales for checking and completing the ancient line and correcting the spelling of the names in it.

We are indebted to Mr. Robin de La Lanne-Mirrlees, Rouge Dragon at the College of Arms for his services in the recording of the Charlestown, New Hampshire branch of the Bowen Family and for his advice as to the authenticity of the ancient records, as stated above.

Quoting from the comments in two of his letters, the Rouge Dragon wrote on February 14, 1957, "I am delighted to hear you have been able to obtain the necessary evidence to tie your line of Bowens to the extremely ancient and distinguished family of Bowens of Glamorganshire. I am particularly glad to obtain the proofs as I will now be able to enjoy recording your pedigree back to the one already recorded in N.27, and I think I may say there are not many pedigrees nowadays like this one."

On June 12, 1957 he wrote, "I am very pleased with these (Bowens of Charlestown, New Hampshire) excellent records."



## THE COAT OF ARMS

Bowen



Heraldic description: "Argent: a stag lodged gu: attired and unguled or: in his mouth an olive branch prop."

"The pedigree in our Official Records begins with a certain Griffith Gwyr and the official arms in the same pedigree are just the stag lodged holding a trefoil in its mouth. I feel sure this is not an oak branch," wrote the Rouge Dragon from the College of Arms, London, in a letter to the writer dated February 22, 1955.

He was asked about the authenticity of a coat of arms with seven quarterings which appeared in the genealogy, Lineage of the Bowens of Woodstock, Conn. by Edward Augustus Bowen. Concerning that shield he wrote, "We examined the other six quarterings in the shield.....and it would appear that the quarterings are meant for the following:

1. Bowen (of Slade; Griffith ap Owen and Griffith Bowen\*)
2. Caradoc Freichfras (#22)\*
3. Cunbeda Wledig (#19)\*
4. Paden Peisrudd (#17)\*
5. Beli Mawr (#1)\*
6. King Pelinor (#22, by marriage)\*
7. Gwys (#38, by marriage circa 1100)\*

"Now, I think I should point out that no marriages with any of these families are given in the Official Bowen Pedigree in Norfolk 27 and, therefore, one must conclude, as in fact is borne out by Protheroe, that these alliances refer to very early ancestors who do not come in Norfolk 27 because they are so early that they are almost impossible to prove. As in the case with many Welsh pedigrees, the early parts are founded more on tradition than on proper documentary evidence and I doubt if it would be possible ever to fully prove that they had them.

"In conclusion, I must, therefore, give my opinion that the correct arms for

\* Information in parentheses is inserted by the writer for purposes of reference to the Pedigree.

## The Coat of Arms (Cont.)

the Bowen Family are just the one quartering of the stag lodged,.....for absolute accuracy, I think you will be quite correct to use just one quartering."

The above appraisal is signed by Mr. Robin de La Lanne-Mirrlees, Rouge Dragon, Pursuivant of Arms. Some of the historical background of recording and of the origin and use of heraldry makes his reasoning clear.

"Our most ancient existing manuscripts are the Triads and the works of the bards of the Sixth century who celebrate in epic strains the deeds of our heroes who fought and fell in the cause of their country.....During the earlier centuries, the registering of genealogies was the province of the Arwydd-feirdd and the Ofyddion, during their three years of probation, which preceded their initiation into the higher orders of bardism. It was optional whether they continued to register the descents of their chiefs but in general they did and a bard and a genealogist became synonymous terms. From the 9th to the 12th Century, the genealogist, sanctioned by royal authority, classed the first families into twenty tribes; five termed royal and fifteen called common." \*1

We are told that as late as the 11th Century decorated shields and accoutrements were in use but no rules were established regarding them and it was not until the first half of the 12th Century that the ordered and hereditary system called Heraldry began.

"It is not known when the system started or what caused its almost simultaneous appearance over all Western Europe. Probably three main factors were responsible for its rapid growth and popularity.

"1. A feudal society based upon the close relationship between lord and tenant; and the advantage for the lord to be known in battle.

"2. The Crusades with their tremendous emotional impact invested armor and weapons with an almost religious significance.

"3. The pageantry of medieval sport, the tournament, to identify contestants.

"By the middle of the 13th Century at the latest, heraldry was firmly established in England with a set of rules and a technical language of its own."\*2

If, as has been stated, decorated shields were not in use until the 11th Century, the coates-of-arms on the shield with seven quarterings could not be proven as authentic. The persons represented by five of these quarterings lived before coates-of-arms were in use. Gwys, who lived around 1100 A.D., may have had one but the others were so early it cannot be proven that they had a shield. Apparently, only the Bowen quartering can be proven. It is the shield of Griffith Gwyr ap Cadivor who lived in 1170 and who was the head of numerous South Wales families. His shield, the stag lodged, was the shield of his descendants, Griffith ap Owen of Slade and of his great-grandson, Griffith Bowen of Llangennydd.

Whoever devised and used the shield with seven quarterings intended thereby to show his descent from the early Kings and tribal chieftans.

\*1 - The Royal Tribes of Wales by Richard Williams

\*2 - The Pageant of Heraldry by Rogers



Three Members of the Ancient Welsh Family

of

Bowen

Bleddyn Ap Maenarch, Lord of Brecknock  
Last of the Celtic Lords of Brycheiniog, Wales  
C early 1000 to 1091

Griffith Ap Owen of "West Slade"  
Steward to Sir Rice Mansel, Oxwich, Glamorgan Co., Wales  
C 1557

Griffith Bowen, Gentleman, of "Burryhead"  
Llangenydd, Glamorgan Co., Wales  
C 1600 - 1676



## BRECKONSHIRE

### BLEDDYN AP MAENARCH

Lord of Brecknock  
c 1091

The County of Breckon in Wales joins Glamorganshire on the northeast. Its boundaries are almost the same as the ancient realm known in the 9th Century as the kingdom of Brycheiniog. Tolgwith was its ancient capitol. The King (or Lord) of the kingdom early in that century was Maenarch.

He was succeeded by his son, Bleddyn, who was Lord of Brycheiniog in 1091 when the Normans, under Bernard Newmarch, began the conquest of Brycheiniog (Brecknock).<sup>\*1</sup>

Bleddyn's wife was the sister of Rhys ap Tewdwr, the Great, King of South Wales and founder of the Second Royal Tribe of Wales. Rebelling against him at this time was Iestyn, Lord of Glamorgan, who invited many Barons and Knights from England to help him. They joined forces with the Normans and advanced on Brycheiniog.

Bleddyn sent hastily for his brother-in-law to join him in the defense of his kingdom. Although Rhys hurriedly came to his aid, their combined forces were outnumbered by the enemy. Bleddyn ap Maenarch and Rhys ap Tewdwr (<sup>\*2</sup>) were defeated and slain in a battle fought near Y Gaer. With the loss of their leader, the Welsh tribes of South Wales were overcome and the Norman, Bernard Newmarch, seized the Lordship of Brycheiniog.

To safeguard his conquest Bernard Newmarch had already begun to build a strong castle on high ground above the Usk River. Under its patronage and protection there soon grew up around the castle a small community of craftsmen and tradesmen. This became a county town with a population of 4,619 which is now called Brecon.

In what kind of a world did Bleddyn ap Maenarch live? One can only imagine its unrest, intrigue, cruelty and violence. For sometime after the departure of the Romans in C 400, the Welsh joined themselves into tribes and small kingdoms that were very hostile to one another.

Eventually, there came to be at least twenty acknowledged tribes; five royal and fifteen called common. The five royal tribes were regarded as of royal blood. In so small a country it was perhaps inevitable that the blood lines crossed and recrossed among them. Bleddyn's brother-in-law, Rhys, ranked the third royal tribe while Rhys' wife was the cousin of Bleddyn ap Cynfyn, the head of the third royal tribe.

The Welsh tribes were in constant conflict and struggle for power and dominion, in which conflict and struggle cousins and brothers fought against one another. Uncle murdered nephew; wives were kidnapped; fathers gave sons and nephews as hostages - knowing their eyes might be put out or they might be killed at the whim of the enemy. It was a dark age indeed.

<sup>\*1</sup> - The Royal Tribes of Wales, by Richard Williams, published by Isaac Foulkes, 1887.

<sup>\*2</sup> - Rhys was 90 years old and in the fourteenth year of his reign when he was slain. He lived at Dinefor Castle.

## Breckonshire - Bleddyn ap Maenarch (Cont.)

An explanation of these family and tribal intrigues is given by one historian (\*3) who explains that it was customary in those days for Chieftans and Kings of Wales to send their infant sons to be nursed and brought up in the families of their principal nobles or gentlemen. These foster fathers, because of their affection for their proteges and also for personal aggrandizement, raised the children and watched for a chance to place them in power. Upon the death of the Chieftan bloody contests and conflicts broke out among the nobility and their pretenders to the Chieftan's throne.

It is not difficult to identify some of the sites which were connected with some of the ancient events in which Bleddyn ap Maernarch took part. Opposite the hotel in Brecon, for instance, are the walled-in private grounds of the residence of the Bishop of the Diocese. At the eastern end a castle mound rises high above the wall and on its top is an ivy-covered fragment of the original castle keep of Bernard Newmarch. Today it is called "Ely Tower."

About three miles west of the town of Brecon is the site of a Roman auxiliary fort occupied by Roman legionary forces between 100 - 400 A.D. It is known as Y Gaer. It was on or near this site that Bleddyn and Rhys were slain and it had been there for almost 1000 years when Bleddyn died in 1091.

Today the camp-site "occupies an area of about five acres. It is rectangular in shape, the greater length lying east and west. On the south and west the land outside the camp slopes rapidly down to the rivers Usk and Yscir. Much of the ancient stone rampart still stands. The sites of the western and southern gateways can be clearly seen. Fragments of the guardrooms are still in position as well as other details. In the 1927 excavations outlines of streets and various camp buildings were revealed." (\*4)

After this Roman camp-site was excavated and its streets and building sites mapped, it was covered again with earth for preservation. In the summer of 1957 it looked like a small hay field surrounded on all sides with ancient stone walls, heavily overgrown with hedges and vines.

Approximately five miles beyond Y Gaer is the historic hamlet of Llywel which is said to have been the headquarters of Ildw, son-in-law of Bleddyn ap Maenarch. Holding the hills on both sides of the narrow defile that extends westward from Llywel, he prevented further encroachment westward by the forces of Bernard Newmarch. (\*4)

There is something majestic and sweeping about the smooth unwooded hills dominating the area of Brecon. They are called the Brecon Beacons and one of them Penfan, is the highest point (2,906 feet) in South Wales. Beneath the Beacons the valleys and slopes are checked off by hedgerows into multicolored fields ranging from light yellow to the deepest of greens. Nestled in the folds of the hills there is a little gem of a lake called Llangorse Lake. The scenery as one nears Brecon is utterly beautiful.

\*3 - Lord Lyttleton

\*4 - Breconshire, Official County Handbook by W. Emrys Evans, B.A., B.Sc.



GRIFFITH ap OWEN'S HOME  
"WEST SLADE"  
at Oxwich, Glamorgan Co., Wales

"'Slade'" means a cutting in the cliffs, usually a green valley, often lined with gorse bushes.... "West Slade" is a farmhouse set in fields which go toward the cliffs." \*1 It still retains the name and the farmhouse that stands there today, at least in part, dates back to the time of Griffith ap Owen.

"In the College of Arms pedigree we learn that Griffith ap Owen, there called Griffith Bowen, lived at Slade, which is the parish of Oxwich, and where his mansion house, at least all that remains of it, may still be seen; now converted into a farmhouse, but bearing the marks of being the residence of gentlefolks in other days. Portions of it were pulled down some years ago and a painted arch of freestone was discovered forming the doorway into a room, now made into a dairy. The present tenant, Mr. Francis Tucker, told me that the roof of that part which was pulled down was of oak and resembled the roof of a church. He also informed me that a piece of oak panelling, much decayed, was found over a doorway inside the building, having, as near as he could make out, the initials W.B. cut upon it." \*2

Comdr. Donald le Cronier-Chapman came into possession of West Slade on September 29, 1955 and soon began the work of renovating it. As the work progressed, he reported it to the writer. He noted, "In the west wall, from the upper floor only, are the remains of an old Flemish Circular arc chimney, (circa 1550). The continuation to the ground level has been replaced by a modern cook and heat stove, bricked into the cravits.

"We have nearly finished the walls having stripped off layers and layers of old plaster and recemented the exterior and snow cemented it. Inside all has been replastered and.....we found an old oak beam evidently out of a ship..... a curved 18"-square - a big timber 15' 0" long. \*3 We had to cut it out as it was smoldering and when the air got to it it began to burn."

On January, 1956 Comdr. Chapman reported, "We found another great oak beam running the width of the house (depth of the home) 20' 0", which carries the circular chimney. It is black and shows adz marks all along its length."

It is interesting to have Cmdr. Chapman write of finding oak beams in the house in 1956. In 1892 Mr. Francis Tucker, the tenant of West Slade at that time, told the Rev. Davies that an extension of the old building was pulled down some years before. When they did so, they found that the roof was "formed with massive oak couples and framing like the roof of a church."

It is said that many of the Gower houses were built with timbers of ships wrecked along that treacherous coast. It is evident that West Slade had them also in its construction.

Cmdr. Chapman goes on to report that, "The building to the right of the porch is an addition, as the main enions to the house do not extend at right angles to corner the extension which is just 'stuck on.'

"The hollowed out stone in the yard is a pig's trough, hand-cut out of

\*1 - Gower, by Olive Phillips, 1956

\*2 - Lineage of the Bowens of Woodstock, Conn., Edward A. Bowen, 1897

\*3 - Quotations from letters to the writer by Cmdr. Donald le Cronier-Chapman in 1955-1956.

Griffith ap Owen's Home (Cont.)

conglomerate stone.

"The old well; I started scaling off many years' layers of lime and have got down to the original stonework. Only the quoins being of dressed stone.

"Eastern and Western Slade are now one farm (120 acres, which is large for Gower) and is being farmed by Leslie Oliver of Oxwich Green." \*1

West Slade stands in a field below the Oxwich Castle. History tells us that it came into Griffith ap Owen's possession through his father-in-law, Humphrey Bury of Burymarbarth in Devon County. Apparently his son, Philip (#50) and his grandson, Francis (#51) also lived at West Slade. Francis and Elen were living there when Griffith (#52) was born.

When Edward Augustus Bowen visited Western Slade in 1886, Francis Tucker was a tenant of the Penrice Castle Estate. His daughter married a Mr. Atherton or Ashton who, in turn, was succeeded in tenancy by Jim Davies, who purchased the freehold some 4 or 5 years before he sold it to Comdr. Chapman in 1955. \*2

GRIFFITH ap OWEN  
and  
THE AFFRAY AT OXWICH CASTLE  
1557

Of the life of Griffith ap Owen, one incident is clearly documented in the Star Chamber Records of 1558, concerning what has come to be called the "Affray at Oxwich Castle." In the deposition of witnesses, the sequence of events and verbatim conversations have been clearly recorded. Among them are statements of Griffith ap Owen.

The "Affray" started when a French trading vessel was wrecked in the bay in a storm on St. Stephen's Day, December 26, 1557. Much of the story has been told in the writer's account of her "Journey to Wales." A few of the other details, however, are interesting to know.

When Griffith and some of the other "notables" who were dining with the vicar saw the situation, they seized upon it immediately. After they had made the French sailors prisoners, they hastened, along with other able bodied residents of Oxwich parish, to take the cargo off the boat as their rightful prize in time of war. It consisted of "fyve surplices of woole, four pieces of figges and 43 gallons of rysins." They soon had the booty and the French prisoners divided up among the local inhabitants.

The following day, Sir George Herbert of Swansea, Sir Rice Mansel's kinsman, sent two of his servants to Oxwich to demand that the booty be turned over but they were told it had already been divided up among the Oxwich inhabitants. When

\*1 - Quotations from Cmdr. Chapman's letters.

\*2 - The Mrs. Davies that the writer met in 1954 was the wife of Jim Davies. But at that time she did not offer information about Cmdr. Chapman's purchase of the property. It was not until later, when he learned of the writer's visit and wrote to her, that a correspondence was started. On her second visit to West Slade in 1957, the writer had the pleasure of meeting and discussing West Slade with Cmdr. and Mrs. Chapman. It is most fortunate that so well formed a man, a historian, and a collector of "Gowerania" should have acquired the property and have been so well able to place in time and importance various details of the property as it now stands.



Griffith ap Owen - Affray at Oxwich Castle (cont.)

their demands were ignored, they left, promising to return in force the next day. And they did.

On December 28, Sir George Herbert's men came at daybreak with a company of 18 men to take by force whatever booty they could find. With sword and buckler they started their action by breaking in upon the vicar in his bed chamber and an outhouse of the vicarage where they seized six pieces of figgs and a horn of gunpowder. They were persuaded, however, to leave this booty for safe-keeping in the little Oxwich Church.

Next, Sir George went to Oxwich Castle. Swaggering into the hall, he demanded to see the Mansels but was told they were away. Although he took away three of the French prisoners, he did not search the Castle for the booty. Instead, he now headed for Griffith ap Owen's house with 17 of his men. Here he expected to find Sir Rice Mansel's son, Sir Edward, but when told that he was not there, Herbert's men forced their way into the house.

Griffith ap Owen protested, "Frenchmen's goods it is, and our own, for such as took it ought to have it." Nevertheless, the records state they "take out of his bedd chamber ther certeyn of goods aforesaid, and ryfled the hole house." In all, they seized two French prisoners, a barrel of raisins, a sack of wool and three "toppets" of figgs.

As Sir Rice Mansel's head man, Griffith's share of the ship's booty would be the largest, next to the lord of the castle. Although he had already retrieved so much, Sir George Herbert was not satisfied. He now rode up the hill to Oxwich Green and while he waited on horseback for Sir Edward's return to the castle he directed his men as they riffled the tenant houses around Oxwich Green, above the castle, and at Slade Cross, below it. Some of the tenants were forced by Herbert's men to carry the goods themselves out of their own houses. Of course, it was regarded by them as the height of humiliation. Then, as Sir George heard that Sir Edward had returned to Oxwich Castle, he called away his servants, leaving four or five houses untouched.

Sir George's company had now increased to 26 men. They came to within 20 feet of the castle and advanced upon Sir Edward at the gate. They carried rapiers, swords, bucklers, divers cotes and fens. As they neared the gate, Sir Edward said, "How now are ye come hither to robb and invade me!" He declared he would defend his father's house and die at the gate rather than let Sir George enter again.

Anne Mansel, Sir Edward's aunt, had been trying to work out a peaceful solution between her kinsmen, the Mansels and the Herberts. But now, as the situation at the gate became more intense, they slipped her inside the gate among Mansel's men. Someone led Anne's horse across the gate, thus separating the two opposing forces. There might not have been any serious blows struck at all, had not one of Sir George Herbert's men picked up and hurled that fatal stone into Sir Edward's group within the gate. It struck and mortally wounded Anne in the forehead. She was tenderly carried by Mansel's men into the castle but she died six days later on January 3, 1558. It then became a case of murder and evidence was taken from both sides in April of that year, preparatory to taking the case to court.

On the basis of it, the Star Chamber Court found Herbert's men guilty of wrongfully entering premises and removing goods and prisoners. It was directed that they should be imprisoned in the Fleet.

GRIFFITH ap OWEN OF SLADE,  
OXWICH, GLAMORGAN CO., WALES

Steward to Sir Rice Mansel  
c. 1557

In an old survey of the population of Gower made in 1563 by the Bishop of St. David's, the number of houses in Oxwich Parish was 17. Allowing five persons to each house, the population could not have exceeded 85 persons. Its area is 1,265 acres. Within a short distance of one another are Oxwich Green, Oxwich Castle, Slade Cross, (crossroads at the foot of the hill), and the "West Slade" manor house of Griffith ap Owen. At the edge of the sea, and on a cliff above it, stands the tiny Oxwich Church.

Oxwich Church

Ascending a wall-lined path from the beach, one climbs a short distance along the sea's edge until one comes to an iron fence blocking the path. At the left is a revolving type of gate that permits the entrance of only one person at a time. Facing the gate, there stands a tiny Norman Church of the simplest design. Its structure is dominated by an embattled tower through which one enters into the simple nave, no wider than the tower itself.

The present edifice is said to have been built in the 12th Century, probably upon the site of a much older one erected in the 6th Century. "It is thought that the church originally was a cell and the abutting portions of the walls show the original proportions of the cell. When it became a parish church it was lengthened and a tower added. This explains the extraordinary length of the nave when compared with the breadth. The chancel was in quite good proportion when the original building was a small cell. The lengthening of the nave explains the dwarfed proportions of the chancel." \*

There are three especially interesting features in the church; the font, a sepulchral stone, and the tomb with effigies of the Norman Lord de la Mare and his lady.

The limestone font has been badly chipped so that its original shape is unknown. However, there are remains of strong iron rivets, leaded into the stone, which once had a cover and a lock. By the constitution of the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1236 fonts were required to be covered and locked.

A sepulchral stone was discovered near the inner doorway in 1891. It had been lain face down and used as a step to the nave. It is ornamented with a cross running the whole length of the stone. Its style carries it back to the 12th Century. The inscription, in Lombardic capitals, points to William de la Lake who lived not earlier than the 13th Century nor later than 1361.

In an arched recess, with a highly decorated canopy of freestone, on the north side of the chancel, lie the carved recumbent figures of a knight and his lady. The former is clad in armour of mixed mail and plate. The lady is in flowing robes with long, falling sleeves and with cuffs and collar of that period. The effigies represent two members of the Knightly family of the de la Mares of Oxwich Castle.

\* J. D. Davies, History of West Gower, Vol. IV



## Griffith ap Owen of Slade (Cont.)

In the walls near the windows there are the remains of iron spikes. These Mr. Hannah says, "were for shutters when invasion by the French in the early 1800 was a real fear by local people." \*1

Today the little church stands alone on a cliff above the relentless encroachment of the sea. An old sketch of the bay shows that the vicarage once stood below the church near a beach which has now been covered by the ocean. It was here that the vicarage stood on December 26, 1557 when a French trading ship was wrecked in the bay. The old vicarage is believed to have been destroyed by the sea in 1805. Today, nothing remains of it, or the land on which it stood, except some traces of the garden wall which joins the wall of the present churchyard.

The Patron Saint of Oxwich Church is St. Illtyd. It was dedicated to him in the 10th Century and completed in the 14th Century. In this connection it is interesting to learn that, "Near the walk to the cove and along the cliff path towards Oxwich Point, along the shore and below the path, may be seen a spring which is covered at high tide. This is about 400 yards east of Slade Cove. The spring is known as Holy Wash. Tradition says that pilgrims to the cell of St. Illtyd at Oxwich Church were encouraged to wash in the spring." \*2

### OXWICH CASTLE

Oxwich Castle is located on high ground above the prehistoric harbor of Oxwich, Glamorgan County on the Gower Peninsula. An ancient trackway passes the castle. It has been in use as a public pathway since the Celtic Christian period.

The first stone castle on this site was built by the Norman Lord de la Mare. The remains of that castle are found today in the ruins of a dove-cote which stands at the left of the castle gate, just outside the walls. It is circular and tapering, with a dome-shaped roof, at the top of which is an opening. Since part of the walls have fallen away, the many-tiered nesting places for pigeons are clearly visible. The diameter of the dove-cote at its base is about 12 feet, the thickness of the walls is 3 feet, and the height about 20 feet.

Oxwich Castle as it now stands was built or reconstructed by Sir Rice Mansel between 1509 and 1557 A.D. There is documentary evidence to prove that the Mansels inherited Oxwich Castle through the Penrices, from the de la Mares. Sir Rice Mansel was born in the old castle on January 25, 1487.

The present castle was built as a fortified mansion to include, yet separate, the apartments of the Knight and the quarters of his retainers within the same stronghold. The gateway is at the left, west side, and above it is Sir Rice Mansel's coat of arms. Above the gateway, and in the thickness of the wall, there is a wide orifice, like a huge chimney of elliptical form, which was a part of a rampart. This was for use in hurling down missiles on the heads of assailants.

Inside the gate is the "baille", or courtyard. It led to the Knight's apartment and the guards' quarters, - the circular building at the right of the gateway. From the open side of the courtyard a beautiful view of the sea and countryside to the south can be had.

\*1 - \*2 - In a letter to the writer from William H. Hanna, Hon. Secretary of The Royal Institution of South Wales.

## Griffith ap Owen of Slade (Cont.)

Beyond the baille, on the west side, rises the eight-storied perpendicular apartment of Sir Rice. Towering as it did over the surrounding countryside, it must have seemed like a skyscraper to the inhabitants. As it stands today, its walls measure in some places 50 or 60 feet in height. If the height of the remains of the large windows at the top are added, this structure must once have been at least 10 feet higher than it is at the present time.

Inside the apartment structure there are no beams nor supports. It is an empty stone shell about 25 feet wide by 32 feet long. Nevertheless, much can be seen in the inner walls which are 4 feet or more in thickness. The windows are deep set; some with window seats; some tiny; others enormously large; some plain; others of intricate design. A fireplace is clearly distinguishable on the first floor. There is a walled-up doorway which originally led to a spiral staircase. The inner walls of the stairwell have fallen away, revealing a well so narrow one wonders how a human being could negotiate stairs within it.

At the very top of the structure are large perpendicular window spaces giving evidence that the great hall, or some of Sir Rice's private rooms, must have been placed in this superior and scenic position. There are apertures in the inner walls for the beams that once supported the floors. One can, even to this day, stand in the empty structure and imagine life as it must have been lived in those old days.

The castle was not quite finished in 1557 when the "Affray"\* took place. History tells us that Sir Rice, disheartened by that unhappy affair, moved to Margam and died there on April 10, 1559.

Sir Rice Mansel's son, Sir Edward, succeeded him, living at Oxwich Castle and at Margam. Although the castle was probably dismantled and rendered indefensible by Cromwell's edict in 1647, it was probably not rendered uninhabitable. Sir Edward Mansel was the last of his family to live at Oxwich Castle. He died in 1585.

By 1949 the castle walls had crumbled to such an extent that they were weakened and a hazard to sight-seers visiting it. A decision was made by the Office of Works to demolish the upper portion of the structure. At this announcement a flood of protests were made by local citizens who were enraged at the idea of destroying the castle for, "Oxwich", they said, "is the best loved and most visited of all our Gower castles."

Public opinion was reenforced by the judgment of eminent architects and historians as to its structural and historic value. Demolition was given up and the castle was taken over by the Ancient Monuments Department of the Office of Works for preservation and custody as a National Monument.

By 1957 most of the destructive vines had been cleared from the walls. Barbed wire no longer prevented the entrance of visitors into the castle enclosure and workmen had begun the task of shoring up some of the loose stones of the upper structure.

Oxwich Castle will now be preserved for all time.

\* See Account of the Affray at Oxwich Castle, Gower, Journal of the Gower Society, Volume II, 1949



GRIFFITH BOWEN OF BURRYHEAD  
 Llängenydd, Glamorgan Co., Wales  
 c 1600 - 1676

It is not known when Griffith Bowen, son of Francis, was born, or where, but it is assumed that he was born at "West Slade" where his father, Francis, lived. The first records of Griffith Bowen in Wales are dated in 1606. He emigrated to Boston, Mass. in 1638 with his wife and at least six children. He acquired considerable property in New England and lived there until 1649. When he returned to Wales, he left some of his family in the United States. Among them was his son, Henry. When Griffith died in Wales in 1676, his property in the United States was divided between his sons, Francis, William, and Henry.

The connection between this Griffith Bowen and the ancient Welsh line was begun in the year 1886 when Mr. Edward A. Bowen of Brooklyn, New York went to Wales to obtain all the information he could about his remote ancestors in general and Griffith Bowen in particular. After visiting different parts of the principality, it was recommended to apply to a local historian, Rev. J. D. Davies, Rector at Llanmadoc. At that time he could supply only the pedigree of Bowen of Court House but five years later he found the Bowen of Slade pedigree and forwarded it to Mr. Edward Bowen. Upon receipt of this, Mr. Bowen sent Rev. Davies all his Boston notes and papers with a request that he try to trace and establish the Griffith Bowen line.

"With the help of the materials thus supplied and the aid of the Penrice MSS., together with my intimate knowledge of the locality, where I have lived all my life, the task was a comparatively easy one", wrote Rev. Davies.\* The following information has been condensed or quoted from the letters of J. D. Davies and from statements made by Edward A. Bowen in his 1897 genealogy, "The Bowens of Woodstock, Connecticut."

"Now it happens that 254 years after this event the greatest possible interest has been taken by his American descendants in the history and pedigree of their remote ancestor on this side of the water. As it relates to a member of a very ancient family, which once resided at Slade, I am glad that the inquiry started in New York has given me an opportunity of adding this biographical sketch of Griffith Bowen to my notices of the parish of Oxwich. Yet, strange to say, every memorial of this family has disappeared from these parts; there is not, so far as I have been able to learn, a tradition of their existence; there is no monument in the church; nor a single entry in any of the old register books of Oxwich and Penrice; and even the name has been forgotten. But I am pleased to think that.....I have been able to give the pedigree and many interesting particulars relating to this ancient family which, although extinct here, still survives and flourishes in another part of the world.

"It is not known when Griffith Bowen was born, or where, but it may be supposed that he was born either at Slade or Burryhead. The first records of him are contained in a document dated 1606 which records the purchase of the estate of Mountiborough at Penrice, from Phillipp Pyg.

"Griffith Bowen was one of the jury (seventeenth century, not dated) in the surveys of the manors of Horton, Poileinon, Burry and Stembridge. In the boundaries of Burry and Stembridge are mentioned the lands of Henry Bowen and

\* Quotes from Lineage of the Bowens of Woodstock, Connecticut by Edward A. Bowen, 1897.



Griffith Bowen; the freeland of Griffith Bowen called Lambe parke.

"Griffith Bowen married Margaret, daughter of Henry Fleming. No record of the marriage has been found, nor do we find the records of the births of their children born in Wales.

"Griffith Bowen left England just at the time when the great quarrel began between Charles I and his parliament which ended in a civil war. He returned in the very year that witnessed the triumph of the parliamentary party, the execution of the king, and the establishment of the Commonwealth; he lived to see its collapse eleven years afterwards, and the restoration of Charles II in 1660. It would be interesting to know which side he took in the great struggle. He certainly was very badly treated by Col. Philip Jones, a notable, influential; and a wealthy parliamentary officer, and in high favor with Cromwell. a circumstance which might lead one to suppose that he was either a neutral or a loyalist; but however this may be, two of his kinsmen, George Bowen, Esq., of Kittle Hill, and his son, John Bowen, Esq., of Swansea, held high office under the Commonwealth, for the former was sheriff in 1650 and his son sub-sheriff. In 1653 the latter John Bowen, Esq., of Swansea, was one of the six members for all Wales by the 'Barebones Parliament.'

"It appears from a bond dated May 5th, 1640, the original of which has happily been preserved, that Griffith Bowen, when he left South Wales, came from the parish of Llangenydd. This bond contains the wording 'late of Llangenith' which supplies the clearest information as to where Mr. Bowen lived before he went to Boston.

"Griffith and Margaret Bowen came to New England between the date of their agreement with William Bennett and February 6, 1639. They may have sailed from Bristol, England and brought with them six children; at least that number were old enough to have come with them." They were:

Margaret, born about 1623 in Wales; married John Weld; died in Roxbury in 1692  
Francis, born in Wales, later of Pembroke, England, in 1628  
William, born about 1632 in Wales; later of Bristol, England; was a mariner, captured by Turks in 1687; died in captivity.  
Henry, born about 1634 in Wales (from whom American Family descended); died 1723 or 1724; buried Woodstock, Conn.  
Mary, born about 1636 in Wales; married Benjamin Child; died 1707  
Elizabeth, born about 1637 in Wales; married Isaac Addington; died 1712 or 1713  
Esther, baptized Feb. 10, 1638 at Roxbury, Mass.; died 1654  
Abigail, baptized Apr. 10, 1641 at Roxbury, Mass.  
Penuel, baptized Apr. 5, 1644 at Roxbury, Mass.; returned to Great Britain; was in London in 1664  
Deriah, baptized Apr. 11, 1647 at Roxbury, Mass.; died after six days.

"Soon after his arrival in Boston he and his wife, Margaret, joined one of the earliest religious communities established there, as shown by the following memorandum, copied from the records of that place of worship and preserved at Boston: - 'Taken in for Members of ye Congregation, the 6t of ye 12th Month (1638) Griffith Bowen and his wife, Margarett.'

"At a Town Meeting held in Boston '9:2 mo: 1649 Mr. Bowen and Petter Oliver is Chosen for perambulation at Mudye River.' This is the only record we have of Griffith Bowen being appointed to office during his stay in New England and it

is the last record of his being in the New World. He must have sailed for Great Britain soon after this, taking with him his wife and several of his children - those whose names do not appear as living in Boston, Roxbury or Woodstock after the time of his departure.

"It appears that he returned to his native country in the year 1649, for in 1650, in an old Gower survey made in that year, we meet with the following entry: 'The same for a tenement now in the hands of Griffith Bowen.'

"Griffith Bowen was, with<sup>out</sup> doubt, in Wales from 1650-1671. 'It is something remarkable that during the time he was absent in Boston, that is from 1638-1649, all record of his name is lost on this side of the Atlantic (Wales) for eleven years; there is a total silence, as far as we can learn from evidence as yet collected: but directly he arrives, that is from 1650-1676, his name crops up in every direction, either in lawsuits, business transactions, or official appointments of some kind or other.'

"Griffith Bowen's name next appears in a survey of Gower Wallicana, 1650, as a 'Freeholder' in the Parcell Case.

"In volume XLY, Calendar of State Papers, Domestic, 1651-52, Public Record Office, London, is a record which shows that Griffith Bowen held office under government. It made no end of trouble for him later financially. He was elected to the Exice Committee 'for exice of all native inaldn commodities, salt, soap, hats, and tobacco pipes excepted.'

"At the Public Record Office in London, Mr. Edward A. Bowen came across a very important piece of evidence bearing upon this point and the identity of said Griffith Bowen: '1652. Spring Sessions for Glamorganshire. Fine levied and acknowledged between Philip Jones, Plf., and Griffith Bowen, Francis Bowen and William Bowen, defts., of a Tenament; in Llanmadoc.'"

The last documents available in regard to Griffith Bowen's later life are voluminous and show his "lack of business foresight; his ill luck, perhaps; his monetary difficulties; his imprisonment; his quarrel with his eldest son about his estate."

It is most likely that Mrs. Margaret Bowen and son, Penuel Bowen, died before Griffith Bowen; they are not mentioned in the settlement of the Boston estate.

"Where and when Griffith Bowen died have not been discovered; the parish register of St. Savior's Church contains no record of his burial; he probably did not die in that parish.

"Griffith Bowen was singularly unfortunate in his business affairs. That he had but little property in Great Britain at the time of his death seems probable; he died intestate, but no record has been found of the administration of his British estate. Yet it seems strange that seven years should elapse between the date of notice of his death and the time of settlement of his New England estate, if there had not been some property in dispute in Great Britain."



GRIFFITH BOWEN'S HOMES  
at Llangenydd, Wales and at Boston, Mass.

Burryhead

Burryhead

"Burryhead is the name of a place in the parish of Llangenydd, and so called from its being the source of the Burry, a small river, which after a course of four or five miles, empties itself into the sea at Whitford Point, in the parish of Chiriton. On the site of Griffith Bowen's residence at Burryhead, there is now a modern farmhouse; but there are remains of old walls and buildings, indicating the existence of a more ancient structure, where in all probability Griffith Bowen resided .....before he left for Boston." \*

From sketches and photographs made before 1897; in 1927; and again by the writer in 1957, the outer structure of Burryhead had changed very little. A metal shed had been erected in recent years for the storage of silage behind the farm buildings. The living portion of the house had been newly cemented with a hideous, dull shade of gray; while the farm buildings attached to it were a dazzling white.

In search for it, we drew up at one of the homes along the route to Llangennydd and rang the bell. A man and his wife came to the door as we inquired about Burryhead. Their welcome was unusually warm and they insisted we step inside.

"Aren't you the lady who came down to Wales to look up your ancestors two or three years ago?" they inquired.

"Yes, I did, but how did you know "

"There was an article about your visit and a picture in our local pwper. I recognized you from that picture. I've saved it all this time." Then the lady produced the newspaper clipping to prove it. Yes, they knew exactly where Burryhead was. It was still called by that name and it was just a few miles down the road.

When we came upon Burryhead it was immediately evident why it had been so named. Just below the buildings is a spring and a marsh where the Burry River comes up out of the ground. It is a natural and exhaustless watering place for the farmer and his livestock. It is the head of the Burry River. There is every reason why it would have been an ideal location for a home in ancient times, as now.

Boston, Mass.

"The first mention of Griffith and Margaret Bowen in the New World is in the records of the First Church of Boston. At a town meeting held in Boston, 'This 29th day of 11th Mo. 1643' it was voted that 'There is granted unto Gryphen Boin, Gent., an house lot, if any yet remain to be disposed of.' \*

\* Quotes from Lineage of the Bowens of Woodstock, Conn. by Edward A. Bowen



"Griffith Bowen had in Boston, 'One house and garden bounded the streete on the south and on the west: Miles Reading on the east: and --- Cole on the north.'

"It was situated on what is now the east side of Washington Street from Bedford Street to Essex Street. Here within the house yard stood the Liberty Tree which is said to have been planted in 1646 and became famous in the Stamp Act times and was cut down in spite by the Tories, 1775.

"The tree was felled by a party led by Job Williams. It made fourteen cords of wood. An illustration of the tree and spot is to be seen in Snow's History of Boston, page 226; also in the Memorial History of Boston, volume 3, page 159. It may be that Griffith Bowen planted the Liberty Tree for he owned the house and garden in 1646, at the time the tree is said to have been planted." \*1

One hundred and thirty years after planting, the great elm tree had become so large that it was a conspicuous spot on the horizon of early Boston. For this reason it became the logical place from which to fly signals which could be seen at a distance.

The "Sons of Liberty" used it for this purpose. They pruned it in 1766; they erected a flagstaff on it in 1767; and raised signals on the staff to call the local "Sons of Liberty" for action. The ground around the tree, including a tavern, was the rallying place for liberty. Finally, in 1775, the tree became such a threat to the Tories that they had it cut down. Besides connecting Griffith Bowen with Boston, it also, in the plaque that remains today, establishes the place where Griffith's American home once stood.

The following excerpts from American histories tell the story more explicitly.

"The Liberty Tree, the widespreading and beautiful elm under which the "Sons of Liberty" were organized in 1765, and beneath whose waving boughs and in the square about it the great liberty meetings were held, used to stand in front of a grocery at the other end of town on the southeast corner of Washington and Essex Streets; and a tablet on the present building there marks the spot. The "Sons of Liberty" were notified of meetings under the tree by the display of a flag hoisted on a staff extending through its branches. Here the effigies of those men who had favored the odious Stamp Act were exposed and momentous movements had their birth. During the siege of Boston the tree was cut down, to the great grief of the patriotic townspeople, by a party of men paid for their work by the British soldiers and Tories. It had flourished 119 years. So late as 1833, the Liberty Tavern stood on the spot it occupied. The remnants of the signal flag are still preserved and are exhibited in the collection in the Old South Church.

"The first popular gathering under this historic tree, which gave it its title, was held August 14, 1765, to give expression to the indignation of the people at revenue oppressions." \*2

\*1 - Quotes from Lineage of the Bowens of Woodstock, Conn. by Edward A. Bowen.

\*2 - Quotes from King's Dictionary of Boston by Edwin M. Bacon, 1883, page 338

.....  
"In 1766 when the repeal of the Stamp Act took place, a large copper plate was fastened to the tree inscribed in golden characters:

'This tree was planted in the year 1646 and pruned by the order of the Sons of Liberty, Feb. 14, 1766.'

"In August 1775, the name of Liberty having become offensive to the Tories and their British allies, the tree was cut down by a party led by one Job Williams.....Some idea of the size of the tree may be formed from the fact that it made fourteen cords of wood.

"The ground immediately about the Liberty Tree was popularly known as Liberty Hall. In August, 1767, a flagstaff had been erected, which went through and extended above its highest branches. A flag hoisted upon this staff was the signal for assembling of the Sons of Liberty for action.

"From this time forth (the pruning of the tree) all measures of public concern were discussed by the Sons of Liberty under the umbrageous shelter of their adored tree. The affair of Hancock's sloop, the arrival of the troops, the Non-importation Act; each received the attention it merited.

"After the establishment of the troops in Boston, the necessity for secrecy in their movements compelled the patriots to resort to the clubs for conference. The tree, however, had borne its part in the acts preliminary to the great conflict which ensured and to pilgrims to the shrines of American history an interest second to no other in this historic city. " \*1

.....  
Picture of the Liberty Tree and tavern is on page 159 of The Memorial History of Boston, 1630-1880, Vol. 111 - Edited by Justin Winsor

"In the wall of the building at the southeast corner of Essex Street, at its junction with Washington, we see a handsome bas-relief, representing a tree with wide-spreading branches. (It reads:)

Liberty 1776  
Law and Order  
Sons of Liberty 1776  
In defence of their country 1776" \*2

\*1 - Landmarks of Boston, by Drake, 1873, pages 396 to 401.

\*2 - This plaque or bas relief is over the entrance to the Essex Subway Station on Washington Street, on the wall at the third floor level, over A. Shulte Cigar Store.



GRIFFITH BOWEN'S CHURCHES  
at Llangenydd, Wales and at Boston, Mass.

Llangenydd Church

For a description of the Llangenydd Church, see the writer's "Journey to Wales," pages 10 and 11.

The Llangenydd Church is located in a commanding position overlooking a magnificent view of smooth purple and green hills. The Church is surrounded by a stone wall which is entered by a lych gate. Inside the wall is a small cemetery but not many ancient gravestones are found in it today.

In front of the Church is the town Green which is circled by a road and, around the outer edge of the road, there is a row of village houses. The Green itself is small; as are the other local "greens", and from it pours spring water from two outlets.

We were told that the Church and the Green were rallying places where town festivals were held. Llangenydd was renowned for its annual July Mabsant. It combined the idea of marketing as well as cock-fighting and the fighting of strong young men. Mabsant was originally a Celtic religious custom but it became more secular as time went on.

"The present Church was that of Llangenydd Priory, founded in the Sixth Century by the Celtic Saint, Cenydd whose birth and upbringing were legendary but whose life was recorded in history. The Priory was destroyed by the Danes in 986 A.D. and rebuilt at the beginning of the Twelfth Century by the then Norman Lord of Gower, probably Henry de Newburgh....." \*

As one looked at the Green and its proximity to the Church, one was struck again with the importance of springs and the part they play in the establishment of the towns and residences of mankind. Because of these springs, was the original Priory Church placed here? And did it, therefore, become the center around which the village grew up? It remains the center of community activities today, as it was in Griffith Bowen's time.

Although his house was several miles from the Green, this must have been the place where he and his family came to worship, to play, and to market.

First Church of Boston

The First Church, or Meeting House, was built in 1632. It was located at what is now 29 State Street in Boston, Mass. A sketch of the Meeting House shows it to be a primitive structure with a thatched roof. The second church edifice was built in 1639 at what is now 209 Washington Street in Boston, Mass. Probably Griffith Bowen attended church in both edifices, since he arrived in Boston in 1639. He and his wife joined the First Church of Boston just before the second church building was erected.

\* - Gower, by Olive Phillips, 1956



"The First Church of Christ in Boston was established soon after the founding of the town, having first been organized in Charlestown (Mass.) under a large tree, by John Winthrop, Thomas Dudley, and others. When the colonists removed to 'Trimontane'; the first meeting house, built of mud walls and thatched roof, was raised on the south side of what is now State Street, with John Wilson as the first 'teacher.' This primitive structure (built in 1632) was succeeded by a more pretentious building, built directly on the site of the (See note below \*1) opposite the head of State Street, Boston. This stood until its destruction by fire October, 1711." \*2

.....

"The First Church in Boston was situated on the ground now occupied by the Brazers Building. Here preached John Wilson, John Cotton, and here came Winthrop and Bellingham." \*3

\*1 - The site of the First Church: Lewandos, 29 State Street, Boston, Mass.  
The second site: Morris Plan Banking Co., 209 Washington St., Boston, Mass.

\*2 - Authority - Kings Dictionary of Boston, by Edwin M. Bacon. Pages 177-178.

\*3 - From Landmarks of Boston. Pages 91-92.

The American Descendants  
of  
Griffith Bowen of "Burryhead"  
Llangenydd Parish, Glamorgan County, Wales  
through the Branches  
of the  
Bowens of Woodstock, Conn.  
and the  
Bowens of Charlestown, N. H.





DESCENDANTS OF GRIFFITH AND MARGARET FLEMING BOWEN

- I. Griffith Bowen of Burryhead, Llangenydd, = Margaret Fleming, daughter of  
Glamorgan Co., Wales  
Henry Fleming  
Born: not long after 1600 in Wales  
Married: about 1627 in Wales  
Emigrated to Boston, Mass.: 1638  
Children: record of 10  
Returned to Wales: 1649  
Died: around 1676 in Great Britain
- II. Henry Bowen (Lieutenant) = (1) Elizabeth Johnson, daughter of  
Born: 1633-4, Llangenydd, Capt. Isaac and Elizabeth  
Glamorgan Co., Wales Porter Johnson of Roxbury,  
Emigrated: to Boston, Mass. 1638 Mass.  
with his father Born: Dec. 24, 1637  
Married: (1) Dec. 20, 1658, Roxbury, Died: Aug. 13, 1683, Rosbury,  
Mass. to Elizabeth Johnson  
Children: 11 (2) Susanna Heath  
Married: (2) Apr. 14, 1684, Roxbury,  
Mass. to Susanna Heath, widow of  
Peleg Heath of Roxbury, Mass.  
Children: None  
Died: Mar. 13, 1723-4, Woodstock, Conn.
- III. Isaac Bowen = (1) Hannah Winchester, daughter of  
Born: Apr. 20, 1676, Roxbury, Mass. Josiah and Mary Winchester of  
Married: (1) 1698-9, Brookline, Mass. Muddy River, (Roxbury), Mass.  
to Hannah Winchester Born: Jan. 11, 1679-80  
Children: 8 Died: Nov. 22, 1717, Roxbury,  
Married: (2) Apr. 15, 1720, Roxbury, Massachusetts  
Mass. to Elizabeth Tucker of  
Roxbury, Mass.  
Children: 2 (2) Elizabeth Tucker, daughter of  
Died: soon after Jan. 1, 1726-7, Lieut. Benjamin and Anne Tucker  
Stoughton, Mass. of Roxbury, Mass.  
Born: Dec. 20, 1688
- IV. Isaac Bowen = Jerusha Prentice, daughter of  
Born: July 29, 1707, Roxbury, Mass. Capt. Thomas and Elizabeth  
Married: June 20, 1733 in Newton, Mass. Jackson Prentice of Newton,  
Children: 10 Mass.  
Died: No record found but "Widow Born: Oct. 3, 1710, Newton, Mass.  
Jerusha Bowen of Newton" married Married: (1) June 20, 1733 to  
again in 1767 Isaac Bowen  
(2) Apr. 15, 1767 to  
Daniel Trowbridge  
Died: June 27, 1791
- V. Prentice Bowen (Lieutenant) = (1) Esther Livesey  
Born: March 10, 1742-3, Killingly, (2) Second wife not known  
Connecticut (now Thompson, Conn.)  
Married: (1) Esther Livesey  
Children: 2  
Died: Will proved Aug. 5, 1788, New York,  
New York



## II

## REFERENCES:

"Lineage of The Bowens of Woodstock, Conn.,"  
Edward A. Bowen, pp. 100-111.

"Family of Griffith Bowen, Gentleman,"

Daniel Bowen

Kings Dictionary of Boston, pp. 182, 183

NAME: LIEUT. HENRY BOWEN

BORN: Llanguenydd, Glamorgan Co., Wales in 1633-4

MARRIED: (1) December 20, 1658 to Elizabeth Johnson  
(2) April 14, 1684 to Susanna Heath

DIED: March 13, 1723-4, Woodstock, Conn.

FATHER: Griffith Bowen of Burryhead, Llanguenydd,  
Glamorgan Co., Wales

MOTHER: Margaret Fleming

HUSBAND: Lieut. Henry Bowen

WIFE: ELIZABETH JOHNSON of Roxbury, Mass.

BORN: December 24, 1637

DIED: August 13, 1683

FATHER: Capt. Isaac Johnson of Roxbury, Mass.

MOTHER: Elizabeth (Porter) Johnson

Children	Born	Where Born	Died	Married	Where Married	Married to
1. Henry, Jr.	Oct. 13, 1659	Roxbury, Mass.				Elizabeth ?
2. Elizabeth	Jan. 26, 1660-1	" "	Nov. 20, 1743	May 24, 1683		Edward Morris (Roxbury, Mass.)
3. John	Sept. 1, 1662	" "				
4. Infant		" "	May 4, 1664			
5. Margaret	bap, May 28, 1665	" "	Sept., 1665			
6. Marie	Sept. 12, 1666	" "				
7. Margaret	Jan. 26, 1667-8	" "	Feb. 19, 1726-7	Nov. 6, 1688		Joseph Bacon (Roxbury, Mass.)
8. Abigail	bap. Aug. 21, 1670	" "	Apr. 16, 1736	Nov. 11, 1698		Nathaniel Aspinwall (Roxbury, Mass.)
9. Peniel	Mar. 8, 1671-2	" "				
10. Hester	Mar. 8, 1675-6 (?)	" "				
11. Isaac	Apr. 20, 1676	" "	soon after Jan. 1, 1726-7 Stoughton, Mass.	(1) 1698 (2) Apr. 15, 1720	Brookline, Mass.	Hannah Winchester (Brookline, Mass.) Elizabeth Tucker (Roxbury, Mass.)



## II HENRY

Henry, the third son of Griffith and Margaret Fleming, was born in Wales. Nothing is known of his early life.

In the printed volume of Boston Town Records from 1660 to 1701, p. 52, under date 28: 12: 1699 (49) is a record of the Selectmen going to Muddy River\* to "view the way through Mr. Bowen's grounds leadinge to the common land. It is ordered that there be free egress and regresse, through the said land by gates to be opened for driveinge of Carts and Cattle thereby."

Henry Bowen was living in Muddy River in 1669 but afterward removed to Roxbury and "lived on the right of Southstreet going up the hill by the Bussy place." In the Land Records of Roxbury (107) 86 it is recorded that Henry Bowen had "five acres of land more or lesse."

Capt. Isaac Johnson, William Lyon and Henry Bowen May 12, 1662, agreed with the Selectmen of Roxbury that for 3.10 and for 12 days of highway work to repair the highway to Dedham for three years.

Henry Bowen was elected to a number of town offices in Roxbury. He was chosen with others, February 18, 1669 to run a line between Dorchester and Roxbury; on February 11, 1677, and March 9, 1685 he was again chosen to run lines between the same towns; he was chosen a Selectman March 7, 1671-2 and February 17, 1679 and again in 1691-2; he was made a constable January 21, 1683. He was a member of the Roxbury company of militia.

In Capt. Isaac Johnson's 4th Company of the Massachusetts Regiment, as organized for the war against the Naragansett Indians, and mustered into service at Pettisquamscot, Henry Bowen was ensign. In the attack at Great Swamp Fort, December 19, 1675, Capt. Johnson's company was at the front. Capt. Johnson was killed at the beginning of the fight and Lieut. Upham, the next in rank was wounded, which undoubtedly put Ensign Henry Bowen in command of the company.

Henry Bowen's name appears in the records of Probate Court for Suffolk County, Massachusetts a number of times from 1684-1703.

He married, second time, April 14, 1684 Susanna, widow of Peleg Heath of Roxbury. She was the daughter of Dorothy, wife of John King, seaman, of Weymouth.

The Selectmen of Roxbury on October 10, 1683 petitioned the General Court for a grant of land "as shall be suitable accommodations for a Township." The General Court, October, 1683, granted their petitions provided they "settle thirty families on sd plantation within seven years after this time and maintain amongst them an able orthodox, godly Minister."

Henry Bowen was one of the 13 men who left Roxbury about April 1, 1686 "to sp out" this grant but whether it was Henry Bowen, Senior, or Henry Bowen, Junior, is not definitely known. But if not among the "first goers", Henry Bowen, Senior, was among those present at the second public meeting held August 26, 1686 "at New Roxbury alias Wapaquasset." At that meeting Henry Bowen, Senior, was one of the seven men appointed a committee to arrange the settlement of pioneers according to authority given them.

\*Muddy River was afterward named Brookline, Mass.

## II Henry (Cont.)

The lands were drawn by lot. Henry Bowen drew, on Plaine Hill, for his home lot, no. 5 containing 15 acres, bounded north on no. 4 and south on no. 6. The settlement was first called New Roxbury, afterward Woodstock, Conn.

March 27, 1699 he was appointed with others to run a line between Roxbury and Boston and was paid for so doing 2s. and 6d.

At a Town Meeting held in Roxbury April 26, 1695 for the purpose of drawing lots for the Town half of Woodstock lands, No. 38 fell to Henry Bowen. At a proprietor's meeting assembled at Roxbury, 19th of July, 1713, held for the division of the Town's half of Woodstock lands, lot 31, in the second range of lots fell to Henry Bowen. It contained  $92\frac{1}{2}$  acres with an "allowance for quality" of  $21\frac{1}{2}$  acres, making a total of  $113\frac{1}{2}$  acres.

Henry Bowen sold his homestead in Roxbury to his youngest son, Isaac, May 7, 1706. Between that date and 1710 he returned to Woodstock. He sold his interest in his father's (Griffith Bowen's) farm to his grand nephew, Joshua Child, Jr.

Henry Bowen died in Woodstock "in ye 90th year of his age" and is buried in the First Parish Church Yard.

from Lineage of the Bowens of Woodstock, Conn. by Edward Bowen

- - - - -

Dr. George Austin Bowen says that Henry C. Bowen "caused the remains of the various Bowens in his direct line.....to be gathered.....and to be placed together in one enclosure. At that time I examined the skeletons of them all, even that of old 'Pioneer Henry' as we call him - making some measurements of the length of the long bones - the size of the head, facial angles, tuberosities, depressions, etc., in short, gaining all the knowledge I could of the physical conformation of my ancestors. 'Pioneer Henry' was nearly six feet high, of strong powerful build, as indicated by the rugged character of the bones, their lines, depressions and fosses."

from Family of Griffith Bowen, Gentleman

- - - - -

"The First Religious Society of Roxbury was formed in 1662; and its first meeting house was on the site of the present old-fashioned church in Eliot Square. Rev. Thomas Wilde was the first teacher."

from King's Dictionary of Boston



Elizabeth Porter Johnson was of Roxbury, Mass. She died August 13, 1683.

Henry, Jr. was one of the parties to an agreement for the settlement of Capt. Isaac Johnson's estate, October 4, 1683. He was "one of the boys" of Roxbury for there is a record of his having been arrested with two other boys for "rideing in the highway from Dedham pretending themselves to bee the watch, the sd Marcy also swearing." He may have been one of the thirteen men who, in 1686, went to "spy out" what is now Woodstock, Conn. All traces of him are missing after this date.

Edward Morris was born in Roxbury, March, 1658-9. He and Elizabeth went to Woodstock with the "first goers" in 1686. He died there August 29, 1726.

Joseph Bacon of Roxbury was born January 1, 1665. He and Margaret settled in Woodstock where she died. He afterward moved to Pomfret, Connecticut, and died there May 31, 1741.

Nathaniel Aspinwal was born in Muddy River (Brookline, Mass.) June 5, 1666. His Will is dated Woodstock, February 15, 1712 and was proved in Boston, June 4, 1713.

Pennel Bowen was "admitted to full communion" to the church in Roxbury, April 13, 1690.

Marie Bowen "owned cov't" July 25, 1686.

Margaret Bowen was admitted to the church, 1685.

Abigail Bowen was baptized August 21, 1670.



REFERENCES: "Lineage of the Bowens of Woodstock, Conn.,"

Edward a Bowen, pp. 113-119.

"Family of Griffith Bowen, Gentleman,"

Daniel Bowen

HUSBAND: Isaac Bowen

WIFE: HANNAH WINCHESTER of Brookline, Mass.

BORN: January 11, 1679-80

DIED: November 22, 1717 at Roxbury, Mass.

NAME: ISAAC BOWEN

BORN: April 20, 1676, Roxbury, Mass.

MARRIED: 1698 or 99 to Hannah Winchester in Brookline, Mass.  
April 15, 1720 to Elizabeth Tucker of Roxbury, Mass.

DIED: Soon after Jan. 1, 1726-7 at Stoughton, Mass.

FATHER: Lieut. Henry Bowen

FATHER: Josiah Winchester (of Muddy River) Brookline, Mass.

MOTHER: Elizabeth Johnson

MOTHER: Mary

Children	Born	Where Born	Died	Married	Where Married	Married to
1. Henry	Mar. 30, 1700	Framingham, Mass.	Jan. 1, 1758	May 10, 1721	Woodstock	Margaret Davis
2. Hannah	Oct. 25, 1702	Roxbury, Mass.	Oct. 31, 1735(?)	Dec. 30, 1725		John Chamberlain (of Roxbury)
3. Mary	Dec. 13, 1704	"	June 17, 1775	Apr. 2, 1728		Capt. Thomas Clark (of Newton)
4. <u>Isaac</u>	July 29, 1707	"	no record found	June 20, 1733	Newton, Mass.	Jerusha Prentice
5. Sarah	Sept. 22, 1709	"	Aug. 20, 1716			
6. Josiah	Nov. 1, 1711	"				Mary Winchester (of Brookline)
7. Peniel	Mar. 29, 1715	"		Mar. 18, 1760		Frances Throop
8. Sarah	Apr. 23, 1717	"				

### III ISAAC

Isaac, the last of our line in Roxbury, was born during the fearful "King Philip's War", perhaps the bloodiest of all our Indian Wars.

Isaac Bowen, husbandman, leased of Deputy Governor Thomas Danforth a farm in Framingham and moved to that town. Soon after his arrival, July 11, 1689, he and his sisters, Abigail and Esther Bowen of Roxbury, for 30 pounds paid then by Nathaniel Brewer, Sr., sold about six acres of land lying in Jamaica in the "Pond" plain, formerly the rightful inheritance of Capt. Isaac Johnson.

Isaac Bowen was one of the organizers of the first church in Framingham, Mass. and one of the eighteen original members.

Isaac Bowen sold his property in Framingham church in November, 1703. His wife, Hannah, was admitted to full communion to the church in Roxbury in February, 1706.

On Nov. 5, 1703 Isaac bought the homestead of his father, Henry Bowen, in Roxbury, Mass.

Isaac Bowen, at a Roxbury town meeting held Mar. 6, 1703-4 was elected Fence Viewer; Mar. 3, 1706-7 he was made Surveyor of Highways; and again elected to these offices Mar. 4, 1716-17 and Mar. 5, 1721-2.

Isaac Bowen's wife, Hannah, died at Roxbury, Nov. 22, 1717. He married on Apr. 15, 1720 Elizabeth Tucker, daughter of Lieut. Benjamin and Anne Tucker of Roxbury. She was born Dec. 20, 1688.

Isaac Bowen moved with his family to his newly purchased farm in "Dorchester New Grant" which name was afterward changed to Stoughton.

It is not known where he was buried; no stone has been found to mark the spot.

John Chamberlain was born August, 1687.

Capt. Thomas Clark of Newton died June 30, 1775.

After his father's death Aramiah Winchester of Brookline, Mass. was appointed Josiah's guardian. He married Mary, daughter of Elhanan Winchester, of Brookline. She died in Brookline "of consumption" Oct. 4, 1782, aged 68. Samuel Bowen, son of Josiah, baptized Sept. 23, 1737.

After Isaac Bowen's death, Thomas Clark of Newton, Mass. was appointed Sarah's guardian.

Isaac had two children by his second wife, Elizabeth Tucker, whom he married Apr. 15, 1720:

1. Benjamin, born in Roxbury, Mar. 6, 1720; died Dec. 1, 1721.

2. Elizabeth, born in Roxbury, Sept. 19, 1722. She married \_\_\_\_\_  
Barker of Danbury, Mass.

IV

REFERENCES: "Lineage of the Bowens of Woodstock, Conn.,"

Edward A. Bowen, pp. 113-119

Newton, Mass. Records

Killingly Vital Statistics Records

HUSBAND: Isaac Bowen

WIFE: JERUSHA PRENTICE

BORN: October 3, 1710

MARRIED: (1) June 20, 1773 to Isaac Bowen  
(2) April 15, 1767 to Daniel Trowbridge

NAME: ISAAC BOWEN

BORN: July 29, 1707, Roxbury, Mass.

MARRIED: June 20, 1733 in Newton, Mass.

CHILDREN: 10

FATHER: Capt. Thomas Prentice of Newton, Mass.

DIED: No record found but "Widow Jerusha Bowen of Newton" married again in 1767.

MOTHER: Elizabeth Jackson

Children	Born	Where Born	Died	Married	Where Married	Married to
1. Martha	1734		Nov. 1815 Bridgeport, Vt.	1756		Noah Barrows of Thompson, Conn.
2. Elizabeth	July 28, 1735		March 16, 1740-1			Nathaniel Greenwood of Newton, Mass.
3. Unnamed daughter			April 4, 1742			
4. Prentice	June 20, 1737		May 14, 1788	Dec. 27, 1759		Shubael Child of Woodstock, Conn.
5. Abigail	Mar. 1, 1738-9		Will proved Aug. 5, 1788 N.Y.C.	May 19, 1767		Esther Livesey
6. Prentice	Mar. 10, 1742	Killingly, Conn.				Daniel Trowbridge
7. Jerusha	Apr. 16, 1744	"				
8. Charles	Mar. 27, 1746	"	July 22, 1809 in Charlestown, N. H.	Dec. 19, 1775		Dinah Field of Northfield, Mass.
9. Sarah	Apr. 24, 1748	"		Feb. 5, 1778		William Morris of Thompson, Conn.
10. Celia	Feb. 10, 1750		Living in 1780 in Bridgeport, Vt.			



#### IV. ISAAC

Isaac Bowen united with his brother, Henry, in purchasing from the other heirs, the late father's farm of 140 acres in Stoughton and which on April 8, 1730, they sold for 600 pounds. At the time of the sale Isaac Bowen lived in Newton (or Cambridge), Mass.

While living in Newton, on February 3, 1732-3 Isaac Bowen bought of the heirs of Capt. Isaac Johnson the grant of land originally made to Capt. Isaac Johnson of Roxbury by the General Assembly of Massachusetts province held in Boston A.D. 1660.....etc., etc.

He bought of John Chandler, Jr. of Woodstock, May 1, 1734 for 800 pounds several tracts of land, 190 acres in all, in the towns of Woodstock and Pomfret and removed to Woodstock where he resided until about 1742. He then removed to Killingly, Conn. and attended the church in Thompson where some of his children were baptized.

1. Martha married Noah Barrows. He was born in Thompson, Conn. August 20, 1727 and died about 1784. She died in Bridgeport, Vt.
2. Elizabeth married Nathaniel Greenwood of Newton. He was born July 21, 1733, died in Hubbardston, Mass. in February, 1761.
3. Abigail married Shubael Child of Woodstock, Vt. He was born August 1, 1735 and died June 7, 1811.
6. Prentice was born March 10, 1742. An older son Prentice (4) is recorded to have died April 4, 1742; the date being nearly a month after the birth of the second Prentice. There is evidently a mistake in these records or he may have been named after the death of his brother.
7. Jerusha married (?) Daniel Trowbridge who was born July 30, 1738 and died October 2, 1776 in the Continental Army near New Haven, Conn.
8. Charles married Dinah, daughter of Dr. Ebenezer and Abigail (Holston) Field of Northfield, Mass. She was born June 26, 1747; died January 3, 1855. He moved to Charlestown, N. H. and died there July 22, 1809.

Of Charles (8th child of Isaac) the most interesting fact known is that he had the purpose of collecting materials for a Bowen genealogy and had begun to make inquiries when he died in Montpelier, Vt. in 1856. Also his nephew, Charles, son of Prentice (and our direct ancestor) probably went to live with him in Charlestown, N. H. This nephew, Charles, was the first of our ancestors to live in Charlestown, N. H.

9. Sarah married William Morris of Thompson, Conn. He was born November 28, 1740. He moved to West Fairlee, Vt. and died there.
10. Celia taught school in Bridgeport, Vt. She was living and unmarried in 1780.

Charles and Dinah's children were:

- a. Fanny, who married Joseph Heaton of Charlestown, N. H. and reared two daughters.
- b. Lucy, died in 1813, wife of William Pomeroy of Northfield, Mass. and mother of four children.

#### IV. Isaac (Cont.)

- c. William married Elizabeth, daughter of Benjamin Coleman of Northfield and had one daughter, Elizabeth, who married Rev. Mr. Worcester of Newtonville, Mass.
- d. Dr. James Bowen who practiced medicine for nearly 40 years in Bloomfield, Maine and died in 1856 leaving no children, but a wife who was a daughter of Obediah Dickinson, Esq. of Northfield, Mass.

from Lineage of the Bowens of Woodstock, Conn.  
by Edward A. Bowen

#### From the Register of Marriages of Newton, Mass.

"This is to certify that the Register of Marriages on file in this office shows that Isaac Bowen and Jerusha Prentice were married in Newton, Massachusetts, U.S.A. on June 20, 1773 and that said original record of their marriage is duly recorded in Book A, Page 208 of the official Register of Marriages of said City of Newton, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

Attest, Monte G. Basbas, City Clerk of Newton, Mass."

#### From the Killingly Vital Statistics Records

"I find the following records of births in Killingly Vital Statistic Records:

Children of Isaac and Jerusha Bowen

Charles - March 27, 1746

Jerusha - April 16, 1744

Sarah - April 24, 1748

Prentice- March 10, 1742-3

Louise B. Viens

Town Clerk of Killingly"

#### From Killingly Vital Statistics Records

Volume 1, Page 32

"Prentice Bowing, son of Isaac Boin by Jerusha, his wife, was born March 10, 1742-3.

Town of Killingly, Danielson, Conn."

REFERENCES: "Lineage of The Bowens of Woodstock, Conn.,"  
Edward A. Bowen, pp. 124-126.

HUSBAND: Lieut. Prentice Bowen

NAME: LIEUT. PRENTICE BOWEN

WIFE: ESTHER LIVESSEY

BORN: March 10, 1742 in Killingly, now Thompson,  
Conn.

BORN: 1709

MARRIED:

DIED:

DIED: New York - made a Will: May 26, 1784  
Will proved: Aug. 5, 1788

FATHER: Isaac Bowen

FATHER:

MOTHER: Jerusha Prentice

MOTHER:

Children		Born	Where Born	Died	Married	Where Married	Married to
1. <u>Charles</u>		Sept. 15, 1773	New York City	Apr. 30, 1839 at Charles- town, N. H.	Feb. 1, 1807	Langdon, N. H.	Belinda Prouty daughter of Daniel & Catherine Palmer Prouty of Langdon, N. H.
2. Ezra		Dec. 20, 1775	" "				



## V PRENTICE

Prentice Bowen was born in Killingly, now Thompson, Conn. In Volume 1, Page 23 of Killingly Vital Statistics is a record: "Prentice Bowing, son of Isaac Boin by Jerusha, his wife, was born Mar. 10, 1742-3."

He married Esther Livesey but it has not been discovered when or where. It is known that he was living in New York City just before the Revolutionary War. In the Register of Births and Baptisms of the First Presbyterian Church appear the following records:

"1773 Oct<sup>r</sup> 10th, Charles, son of Prentice Bowen and Esther Livesey, his wife, born Sept<sup>r</sup> 15, 1773

"1776 Jan<sup>ry</sup> 7th, Ezra, son of Prentice Bowen and Esther Livesey, his wife, born Dec<sup>r</sup> 20th, 1775."

\* Prentice Bowen served in the Revolutionary War; he was appointed November 21, 1776 a second lieutenant in the 3rd or 4th New York Regiment (he is recorded as belonging to both); he held the office of Regimental Quartermaster from May 28, 1778 to July 14, 1780; retired January 1, 1781; he afterward was a captain of New York levies.

A Will was found in the Surrogate's office, Hall of Records in New York City. The Will was made on May 26, 1784 when he was "weak and infirm in body but of sound and perfect memory." He left all of his possessions "to my beloved son, Charles Bowen, including real estate, monies due and in hand, household effects and furniture, besides wearing apparel of which I was possessed before my late marriage." The Will was proved August 5, 1788. The executors were William Tapp and William Cooley. One of the witnesses to the signing of the Will was Simeon Alexander Bayley, Buckle cutter.

A Bounty Land Warrant #162 for 200 acres of land was granted for the military service of Prentice Bowen in the Revolutionary War. It was issued two years after his death, July 16, 1790 to William T. Vreedenburg as assignee of William Tapp, one of the executors.

The Archivist in Charge at The National Archives reported July 15, 1957:

"A careful search of pertinent records of the General Land Office in the National Archives has failed to reveal any record of land that was located under Bounty Land Warrant 162. William T. Vreedenburg purchased several Land Warrants and used them to locate land in the United States Military District of Ohio but Warrant 162 does not appear among those listed. Many of the early Revolutionary War Bounty Land Warrants were destroyed when the British burned Washington in 1812; almost all Warrants numbered from 1 through 6,000 are missing from the records."

It has not been discovered where Prentice Bowen died; where he is buried; or who his second wife was.

\* From Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army, War of the Revolution, by F. B. Heitman, 1893.



CHARLESTOWN, NEW HAMPSHIRE BRANCH

- VI. Charles Bowen  
Born: Sept. 15, 1773, New York City  
Married: Feb. 1, 1807, Langdon, N. H.  
Children: 6  
Died: Apr. 30, 1839, Charlestown, N. H.
- = Belinda Prouty, daughter of  
Daniel and Catherine Palmer  
Prouty of Langdon, N. H.  
Born: Nov. 5, 1785, Langdon,  
N. H.  
Died: June 14, 1872, Charles-  
town, N. H.
- VII. John Gilman Bowen  
Born: Oct. 10, 1810, Charlestown, N. H.  
Married: May 18, 1842, Charlestown, N. H.  
Children: 3  
Died: Feb. 22, 1892, Charlestown, N. H.
- = Parthena Putnam, daughter of  
Samuel and Eliza Southard  
Putnam of Charlestown, N. H.  
Born: Oct. 3, 1823, Charles-  
town, N. H.  
Died: May 5, 1904, Charles-  
town, N. H.
- VIII. George Gilman Bowen  
Born: Feb. 10, 1853, Charlestown, N. H.  
Married: Oct. 12, 1878, Charlestown,  
N. H.  
Children: 4  
Died: June 30, 1942, Bellows Falls, Vt.
- = Mary Eliza Fletcher, daughter  
of Samuel Laselle and Cather-  
ine Jones Fletcher of  
Charlestown, N. H.  
Born: July 22, 1854, Charles-  
town, N. H.  
Died: Oct. 24, 1917, Bellows  
Falls, Vt.
- Children of George Gilman Bowen and Mary Eliza Fletcher
- IX. Ernest Fletcher Bowen  
Born: Nov. 25, 1887, Langdon, N. H.  
Married: June 15, 1912, Ithaca, N. Y.  
Died: Aug. 31, 1955, Hanover, N. H.  
Children: 3
- = Ina Adelia Lamont, daughter of  
Clarence and Ina Adelia Booth  
Lamont of Utica, N. Y.  
Born: Apr. 28, 1889, Utica, N.Y.  
Died: May 30, 1958, Littleton,  
N.H.
- IX. Carl Kenneth Bowen  
Born: Feb. 9, 1889, Langdon, N. H.  
Married: Mar. 10, 1911, Amherst, Mass.  
Died: Dec. 31, 1949, Jaffrey, N. H.  
Children: 4  
Graduated: Amherst College, June 28, 1911,  
B. A. Degree
- = Ruth Anna Wells, daughter of  
George J. and Helen Miriam  
Richards Wells of Albany, N.Y.  
Born: Jan. 17, 1890, Albany,  
N. Y.  
Died: June 5, 1948, Jaffrey,  
N. H.
- IX. Ruth Ellen Bowen  
Born: Jan. 23, 1892, Langdon, N. H.  
Married: Oct. 6, 1913, Bellows Falls,  
Vt.  
Children: 1
- = William Chase Jewett, son of  
William Augustus and Eliza  
Ellen Chase Jewett of  
Marlboro, N. H.  
Born: Nov. 17, 1883,  
Marlboro, N. H.
- IX. Georgene Esther Bowen  
Born: Feb. 13, 1898, Charlestown, N. H.  
Missionary to Japan: 1925-1937  
Social Settlement Worker, U.S.A.: 1938-1945  
Director of leisure-time program for  
older people, Philadelphia, Pa.: 1946-1963  
Member: National Association of Social Workers  
International Conference of Social Work  
Gerontological Society





VI.

REFERENCES: Register of Deeds, Cheshire Co.

Register of Probate, Sullivan Co.

History of Charlestown, N. H. 1876

The Second History of Charlestown, N. H. from

History of Langdon, N. H. 1876 - 1954

Monument in Charlestown Cemetery

NAME: CHARLES BOWEN

BORN: September 15, 1773 in New York City

MARRIED: February 1, 1807, Langdon, N. H.

DIED: Charlestown, N. H., April 30, 1839\*

FATHER: Prentice Bowen

MOTHER: Esther Livesey

HUSBAND: Charles Bowen

WIFE: BELINDA PROUTY

BORN: November 5, 1785, Langdon, N. H.

DIED: June 14, 1872, Charlestown, N. H. \*2

FATHER: Daniel Prouty of Langdon, N. H., born in Spencer, Mass.

MOTHER: Catherine Palmer " " , born in Spencer, Mass.

Children	Born	Where Born	Died	Married	Where Married	Married to
1. Prentice Prouty	April 7, 1806*	Charlestown, N. H.	Sept. 21, 1878*	April 15, 1842		Eliza Jane Putnam*
2. John Gilman	October 12, 1810	" "	Feb. 22, 1892	May 27, 1842	Charlestown, N. H.	Parthena Putnam
3. George W. *3	No date found	" "	Nov. 18, 1820*			
4. Fanny Belinda	May 10, 1820	" "				Simeon W. Walker
5. George Prouty	April 17, 1824	" "	1886 (AE 62)*	June 1, 1851		(1) Martha Ellen Bond
6. Horace H.	April 28, 1828	" "	1888 (AE 60)* (in California)	Unmarried		(2) Thera Corriel

\* Monument in Charlestown, N. H. Cemetery

\*2 Death Certificate; June 14, 1872; Monument; June 17, 1872

\*3 Monument; George W., son of C & B Bowen, died Nov. 18, 1820

## VI CHARLES BOWEN

Charles Bowen was born in New York City. His birth is recorded in the Register of Births and Baptisms of the First Presbyterian Church, 12 West 12th Street, as follows:

"1773 October 10th; Charles, son of Prentice Bowen and Esther Livesey, his wife, born September 15, 1773."

No further record of Charles has been found in New York City but we know that his father, Prentice, was appointed a lieutenant in the Revolutionary Army when Charles was three years old (1776) and did not retire until Charles was eight years old (1781). Prentice was "weak and infirm of body" when he made his Will in New York in 1784 and by 1788 he was dead. Charles was then fifteen years old.

Charles evidently went to Charlestown, New Hampshire because his uncle, for whom he was named, Charles Bowen, a tailor, had settled there.

He acquired Lot #247 on the Ackworth Road in Hemlock in 1845 and built a house there.\*

"Lot #247 on Ackworth Road.....The old house burned when Gilman and Prentice were boys. Charles Bowen built the present house. The old Providence Road ran through this farm."

He was thirty-four years old when he married Belinda Prouty of Langdon, N.H. on February 1, 1807. The officiating clergyman was Rev. Abner Kneeland. In the State Department of Health Bureau of Vital Statistics, Belinda is recorded as "Lyndia" Prouty. Charles and Belinda had six children, one of whom is not recorded in the Charlestown records but his name is engraved on Charles Bowen's monument in the Forest Hill Cemetery at Charlestown; "George W. died Nov. 18, 1820."

In the records in the Probate and Register of Deeds Offices in Cheshire County, N. H. there are several items referring to Charles Bowen of Charlestown, New Hampshire. Some of them refer to his Uncle Charles Bowen, a tailor, and some to his cousin, Charles Bowen, Jr. Our Charles is referred to there as "yoeman" or "husbandman." The relevant items are:

Benjamin West, Esq. of Charlestown to Charles Bowen of Charlestown, yoeman. (\$1600.00)

Dated March 12, 1816. Recorded Mar. 4, 1824. Vol. 96 Page 58.

Lot #16 in 6th Range except parts sold to Joshua Buckman and Ebenezer Tidd.

Samuel Stevens, Esq. of Charlestown to Charles Bowen, husbandman, of Charlestown. (\$520.00)

Dated Jan. 19, 1818. Recorded Mar. 4, 1824. Vol. 96 Page 59.

Westerly half of 100 acre lot #13 in 6th Range, 50 acres more or less. Easterly half owned by William Bond.

Ebenezer Tidd, yoeman, of Charlestown to Charles Bowen, yoeman of Charlestown.

Dated May 15, 1815. Recorded Mar. 4, 1824. Vol. 96 Page 60.

6 acres and 88 rods.

\* Second History of Charlestown, N.H., 1954 Page 42.



VI Charles Bowen (Cont.)

We the above named Committee, gave due notice to Prentice P. Bowen, J. Gilman Bowen, Samuel Garfield, Jr. (Attorney of Simeon Walker and Fanny Walker, wife of said Walker), and Ashbill Hamlin (Guardian of George P. Bowen and Hannah\* H. Bowen) that we should on the eighteenth day of October A.D. 1841, at nine o'clock A.M. proceed to set off to Belinda Bowen Widow, her dower which happens to her of the estate of her late husband, Charles Bowen, late of Charlestown, in the County of Sullivan deceased,--and on the said eighteenth day of October did set off to said Belinda or one third part of the real estate of the said Charles Bowen, being a strip of land off of the West end of said Bowen's farm twenty-six rods wide, which we consider to be in value equal to one third part of the value of said farm,--also one third part of the House, consisting of one square room and bed room in the east end of said house, also one third part of the Chamber, and cellars with a privilege of one third part of all the out buildings and privileges pertaining thereto--also one third part of the barn, being the east end, also one third part of the fruit that may grow on said farm.

Samuel Putnam  
E. H. West  
Silus Bond

Sullivan SS Oct. 18th, 1841. Personally appearing the above named, Samuel Putnam, Enoch H. West, and Silas Bond, severally made oath that they have faithfully and impartially set off the dower of the said Belinda as in the above report before me.

Edmund L. Cushing  
Justice of the Peace

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SULLIVAN, SS

At a Court of Probate, holden at Newport in said county on the 20th day October A.D. 1841.

The foregoing report of the above named committee, having this day been duly presented and returned to me, and it appearing by said report that notice to all concerned had been given, and no objections being made to the acceptance of said report, I do decree that the same be, and it hereby is, accepted, and ordered to be recorded.

John L. Putnam          Judge of Probate

A true copy, Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Register of Probate

Belinda died June 14, 1872 in Langdon of "old age" her Death Certificate states. There is a record in the Probate Court of Sullivan County in which Charles' and Belinda's children, Prentice Prouty Bowen and Gilman Bowen, together with George P. Bowen of Brooklyn, N.Y. and Fanny B. Walker of Claremont, N.H. petition that George Hubbard be given the administration of her (Belinda's) estate. She died leaving no Will. Prentice and Gilman state under oath that all of her estate "does not exceed the sum of two hundred dollars." This document is dated on August 26, 1872.

Charles and Belinda are buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, Charlestown, N.H. There is a monument at the south end of the cemetery, near the semi-circular drive. On the monument is listed four of Charles' and Belinda's children.

\* An error in the record. The minor child's name was Horace H., not Hannah.

VI Charles Bowen (Cont.)

Charles Bowen of Charlestown to Joshua Buckman of Charlestown (25 lbs.)  
Dated May 1, 1794. Recorded June 16, 1800. Vol. 34 Page 297.  
A part of Lot #16 in 6th Range.  
Signed: Charles Bowen

Charles Bowen of Charlestown to John Densmore of Charlestown.  
Dated April 13, 1814. Recorded May 4, 1814. Vol. 64 Page 478.  
Warranty -  
Being 100 acre lot #13 and part of 100 acre lot #14 in 8th Range.  
Signed: Charles Bowen  
Belinda Bowen

"I, Belinda Bowen, wife of said Charles Bowen, do hereby relinquish my right of  
Dower in the presence aforesaid.

Signed: Samuel Putnam  
Fred A. Sumner

Charles Bowen personally appeared and acknowledged the foregoing instrument  
to be his Voluntary Act and before me.

Signed: Fred Sumner"

The year following Charles Bowen's death in 1839, Belinda's dower was legally  
determined. Among those agreeing to the settlement were: her sons, Prentice P.  
Bowen, J. Gilman; the attorney for her daughter and son-in-law, Fanny and Simeon  
Walker; and the guardian of her minor sons, George P. and Horace H. Her son-in-law,  
Samuel Putnam, signed the agreement. Because the writer considers the agreement  
interesting, it is herewith recorded.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SULLIVAN, SS.

The Judge of the Probate of Wills, &c. for said County,

To Enoch H. West, Samuel Putnam & Silas Bond, all of Charlestown & all free-  
holders in said County,

YOU are hereby appointed a committee to set off to Belinda Bowen Widow, her  
dower which happens to her of the estate of her late husband, Charles Bowen late of  
Charlestown in said county, deceased, and set forth the same by metes and bounds, to  
hold to her in severalty; in doing whereof, you are to have respect to the quality  
as well as the quantity of the estate to be divided, so as to allow her a full  
third of land and buildings.

And if the said estate lies in common and undivided with the estate of any  
other person, you are in the first place to proceed and sever the same, notifying  
all persons concerned, and make return hereof, under your or the major part of your  
hands, upon oath to your fidelity herein, to the Judge of Probate for said county,  
for the time being, as soon as may be.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court of Probate for said county, the 18th  
day of November, anno Domini 1840.

John L. Putnam

Judge of Probate



VII

REFERENCES: History of Charlestown, N.H.  
Family records  
Gravestones in Charlestown, N.H. Cemetery  
Death Certificate of Gilman Bowen  
Register of Probate - Gilman Bowen  
JOHN GILMAN BOWEN

BORN: October 10, 1810 at Charlestown, N.H.

MARRIED: May 15, 1842 at Charlestown, N.H.

DIED: February 22, 1892 at Charlestown, N.H.

FATHER: Charles Bowen

MOTHER: Belinda Prouty

HUSBAND: Gilman Bowen

WIFE: PARTHENA PUTNAM

BORN: October 3, 1823

DIED: May 4, 1904 at Charlestown, N.H.

FATHER: Samuel Putnam, son of Timothy, Jr. and Sarah (Hewitt) Putnam

MOTHER: Eliza Southard

Children	Born	Where Born	Died	Married	Where Married	Married to
*1. Sarah Lucinda	Feb. 23, 1843	Charlestown, N.H.	June 17, 1920 at Charlestown, N.H.	Dec. 19, 1868	Charlestown, N.H.	Charles Willard, Jr.
*2. Eliza Jane	Dec. 7, 1848	" "	June 4, 1922 at Bellows Falls, Vt.	Dec. 28, 1870	" "	William H. Upham
3. <u>George Gilman</u>	Feb. 10, 1853	" "	June 30, 1942 at Bellows Falls, Vt.	Oct. 12, 1878	" "	Mary E. Fletcher

\* See list of descendants of Sarah and Eliza under Children of John Gilman and Parthena Bowen under the "Willard-Way, Upham-Glassman Branches".

\* See list of descendants of Sarah and Eliza under Children of John Gilman and Parthena Bowen under the "Willard-Way, Upham-Gilssman Branches".



## VII JOHN GILMAN BOWEN

He was the second son of Charles and Belinda Prouty Bowen, born on their farm in the Hemlock District of Charlestown, N. H. It was on lot #247. The Charlestown History tells us that the Bowen home burned when Charles and his older brother, Prentice, were very young \* but it was rebuilt and has remained to this day without structural change. The farm is situated high on the hill, on the Acworth Road, out of sight of other buildings. Life must always have been lonely there approximately five miles from the center of the town of Charlestown.

No explanation has been passed down in the family as to where John Gilman's name came from. However, it seems probable to the writer that he was named for John Taylor Gilman, Federalist, who was the Governor of New Hampshire from 1793-1805 and, again, from 1812 through 1815. Some legal records refer to him as "J. Gilman" but, in general, he was called "Gilman" by his family and friends.

Nothing is known of his early life. It is certain that work was never-ending in making the small Bowen farm support his parents and their six children. For whatever reason, he and his brother, Prentice, did not marry until quite late in life. Prentice was 38 and Gilman was 32 years old. They were married within a month of one another to the Putnam sisters. John Gilman married Parthena Putnam on May 15, 1842 at Charlestown, N. H. She was thirteen years his junior. The following quaint newspaper item was found in the archives of the National Eagle at Claremont, N. H., on Page 3 of the May 27, 1842 issue.

"In Charlestown, on the 18th inst. by Rev. Mr. Corsley, Mr. Gilman to Miss Parthena Putnam, both of Charlestown, and a neat little rose colored sugar heart accompanied the above."

The Putnam sisters brought into the Bowen family what was undoubtedly an American Indian strain. Since the Putnam family was a distinguished and colorful one, it may be interesting to record some of its background.

It seems that Seth Putnam and his family came up from Danvers, Mass. as early as 1745. They became some of the first settlers of Charlestown. It was here that Fort Number Four was located. They were fearful and dangerous times because of the threatening attacks of hostile Indians. One of Seth's sons was the first person in the town to be killed by the Indians on the hill, back of what is now East Street. Another son, Timothy, married a "Susanna Badger."

The name itself would have gone unnoticed by this writer, except that she was looking for a person in the Putnam line who could have been an Indian. The writer's father and Aunt Sarah Bowen Willard often spoke of their grandfather, "Sam", and his Indian blood. In addition to the tradition, there were a daguerreotype and photographs of Parthena's father, Samuel C. Putnam, to give the story credence.

Samuel Putnam looked like a pure-blooded Indian. He had high cheek bones, straight black hair, black eyes, and a proud, strong appearance that could but command respect. He was an active member of the Church, paid rent for half of pew #19 which was the first pew, front, on the left side of the aisle. He was devout and talented because we are told that he never missed a Sunday in fourteen years, riding horseback from his farm to sing in the choir of the Unitarian Church in Charlestown.

He must have had a sense of humor to have made such quips as, "I believe in

\* Second History of Charlestown, N. H., Page 42.

John Gilman Bowen (Cont.)

telling the truth if I can remember the damn stuff!" He was a proud man; proud of his high cheek bones and "part-Indian blood." He was one of Timothy Putnam, Jr.'s thirteen children. He lived on lot #265 where he was a farmer and held an interest also in the Putnam sawmill on Great Brook.

But who was Parthena's and Sam's Indian ancestor? Going back over the Putnam genealogy, the name of Susanna Badger was found. Since Badger is an animal name, it might have been Indian. Susanna was Sam's grandmother and Parthena's great-grandmother.

Gilman's older brother, Prentice, established his life on a farm and became a carpenter by trade. He even went to a different church - the Congregational Church - where he was the sexton for many years. Gilman bought his brother's share of the Bowen farm and settled there with Parthena to live a farmer's life. Here his three children were born; Sarah Lucinda, Eliza Jane, and George Gilman.

The children had differing personalities and lived widely divergent lives but they had many characteristics in common. They were courageous, honest, kind, efficient and capable. They were prodigiously hard workers. They were loved and respected by their communities. The two girls were excellent housekeepers and cooks. Sarah was known as a Good Samaritan to neighbors and strangers alike. Eliza Jane rented rooms and ran a boarding house in her home on Atkinson Street in Bellows Falls, Vermont. She was a staunch church worker. Gilman and Parthena taught their children well.

In their youth they were sent to school in the little one-room schoolhouse in the Hemlock District. It stood across the field from the Bowen farm, farther up on the Acworth Road. Sarah and Eliza must have been allowed time to acquire a basic education there but the ailing Gilman did not allow his son but four terms of schooling before withdrawing him to help fulltime on the farm.

The little schoolhouse had no plumbing or even an out-house in those days. Children had to take to the bushes and thickets. This made so strong an impression upon George that, later as a young man when he became a member of the School Board, he took action to correct the situation. His first act after election was to go into the woods, chop down a tree, haul it to the school, saw it up and build the school's first out-house. This may have been around the year of 1870.

Gilman was forty-three years of age when his son, George, was born. By the time George was ten years old, Gilman was depending upon this son to do most of the heavy farm work. Because he was suffering increasingly from Rheumatism, he was short-tempered. Unfortunately, most of his relatives who spoke of him in later years remembered his bad disposition.

One unpleasant episode stood out in George's mind. Gilman often "thrashed" George by beating him with his cane. Finally, there came a day when George became strong enough to put a stop to this treatment. As George told it, "One day my father started as usual to thrash me and I decided I'd had enough. So, I took his cane away from him and sat him down in a chair. He never tried to strike me again."

One of the few moments of pleasant companionship with his father that George remembered was when he and Gilman went to the barn together at four o'clock in the morning to feed and water the stock. When the work was done, Gilman would



## John Gilman Bowen (Cont.)

say, "Come, now, let's go back to the house and have some coffee."

Gilman's grandson, Col. Francis Bowen Upham, remembers him kindly. By that time, confined to a chair, he was friendly to the little boy and often gave him some peppermint drop candy of which he was particularly fond.

John Gilman was a member of the Unitarian Church, as his father had been before him. The South Parish Records show for instance that he contributed \$5.00 for pew rent in 1875. But it is probable that because of his infirmity he was not able to attend in his later years.

Politically, he was a Republican. The story goes that once at election time Edgar Jardine, a Democrat, was sent out from town to get Gilman and bring him to the polls. But Jardine purposely drove his horse so slowly that Gilman arrived too late to vote.

Life on the Bowen farm was certainly demanding for Parthena; raising her family, doing house and farm work, taking in boarders, and, in his later years, waiting on her husband.

She was a small, quiet, little woman with black eyes, straight black hair, parted in the middle and drawn into a knot in back. She was an incessant and strong worker, even splitting her own wood, drawing the water, and performing other heavy farm chores. When she was not physically active her hands must always have been busy with mending, sewing, knitting, and making bed quilts. Everyone who remembered her spoke first of all of her industry.

Parthena must have been an excellent cook. One of her cooking chores was to bake fifty pies in the fall and freeze them. She packed them in grain in the shed to keep them frozen and took them out as they were needed throughout the winter.

Two grandsons remembered Parthena. When she came to visit George Bowen's home in her later years she made her grandsons, Ernest and Carl, sew on patchwork quilts. And she watched over them evenings to make sure they did it. Those were the days when most children were encouraged to make samplers and bed quilts in their free time. Her adopted granddaughter, Fanny Lindquist Willard, remembered reading long hours to Parthena while she sewed or knitted. This she enjoyed most of all and as she listened "her black eyes would snap with interest."

Parthena developed some peculiar ways in her later years. She took to wearing a cloth around her face "to market or meeting." She also used some form of alcohol to bathe her feet. She thought water on her feet made her catch cold. Maybe it did in that unheated farm house!

## THE BOWEN HOME

There are pictures in existence of the interior of the Bowen Farm in Gilman's day. There were two bedrooms, a sitting room, a parlor, a dining room, a kitchen, and a pantry on the first floor. The furnishings were plain, uncluttered and spotless. There was linoleum, covered by thin woven rugs, and occasional braided oval rugs on most of the floors. Chairs were plain with wood or wicker seats. Some of them were softened with cushions. The living room was dominated by a soapstone stove. Another parlor had an iron coal stove in front of a closed up fireplace. There was, of course, no central heating.



## The Bowen Home (Cont.)

Tables invariably were covered with table cloths. Beds had high wooden head and foot boards, feather beds, quilts and white spreads. The bedroom windows were generally kept darkened during the day to keep out the flies and the sun. A washstand with pitcher and bowl was a bedroom requisite, as were a commode of some sort. There was no central plumbing.

In the kitchen were a large iron cook stove and a sink without a pump or a faucet. The home had no running water. Bathing was done at the bedroom washstand or in a tub in front of the stove in the kitchen. The home was lighted by kerosene lamps in Gilman and Parthena's time.

As a matter of fact, it was not until 1875 that the village precinct of Charlestown raised \$1,000 for lighting its streets. With this amount 52 kerosene lamps were purchased and set up. Probably about that time the Bowen farm began to use kerosene lamps. Before that, tallow candles, tallow dip, and oil lamps were probably used.

When John Gilman died in 1892 he left \$1.00 to each of his three children and to his "beloved wife, Parthena Bowen, her heirs and assigns forever, all the rest, residue and remainder of my estate, real and personal and mixed, wherever found and however situated. The aforesaid bequest and devise to my beloved wife is intended to be instead of her dower and distributive share of my whole estate....."

Sometime after Gilman's death his daughter, Sarah Bowen Willard, and her husband, Charles, went to live at the farm and to take care of Parthena until after her death there in 1904.



REFERENCES :

Family  
Records of Windham County, Vermont  
Bellows Falls Times, Bellows Falls, Vt.  
History of Charlestown, N.H.  
NAME: GEORGE GILMAN BOWEN

BORN: February 10, 1853 at Charlestown, N.H.

MARRIED: October 12, 1878 at Charlestown, N.H.

DIED: June 30, 1942 at Bellows Falls, Vt.

FATHER: John Gilman Bowen

MOTHER: Parthene Putnam

HUSBAND: George G. Bowen

WIFE: MARY ELIZA FLETCHER

BORN: July 22, 1854 at Charlestown, N.H.

DIED: October 24, 1917 at Bellows Falls, Vt.

FATHER: Samuel Lascelle Fletcher, born in Lempster, N.H.

MOTHER: Catherine M. Jones, born in Claremont, N.H.

Children	Born	Where Born	Died	Married	Where Married	Married to
1. Ernest Fletcher	Nov. 25, 1887	Langdon, N.H.	Aug. 31, 1955 Hanover, N.H.	June 15, 1912	Ithaca, New York	Ina A. Lemont
2. Carl Kenneth	Feb. 9, 1889	" "	Dec. 31, 1949 East Jaffrey, N.H.	March 10, 1911	Amherst, Mass.	Ruth A. Wells
3. Ruth Ellen	Jan. 23, 1892	" "		Oct. 6, 1913	Bellows Falls, Vt.	William C. Jewett
4. Georgene Esther	Feb. 13, 1898	Charlestown, N.H.		Unmarried in 1961		



### VIII GEORGE GILMAN BOWEN

George Gilman was the youngest of Gilman's and Parthena's three children. When he was a mere infant his sisters found interesting ways of keeping him quiet. One device was to leave him at the corner of the house when the winds swept up the hill so strongly that it took the infant's breath away. In his struggle to breathe he couldn't cry! Another method was to smear molasses on his fingers and give him a feather. It kept him busy picking the feather from one hand to the other. Another episode was related of George while he was still in dresses (about three or four years old). His family lost track of him one day. When they found him, he was walking along the ridgepole of the farm house.

Another childhood story was that somehow he came into the possession of a violin. George was musically inclined and tried to learn to play it. Before he could make any real progress, his sister, Sarah, grew tired of his practice and smashed the violin. Sixty years later George loved to tease Sarah by reminding her he might have become a great violinist.

One of the tasks given to him as a boy was to drive some cattle to Haverhill, N.H. It took him four or five days on foot to bring them to their destination, driving them by night to keep them cool.

By the time he was twelve years old he was doing a man's work on the farm. He was eighteen when he decided to strike out for himself. He hired a man to help his father on the farm and found a neighbor who was willing to trust him to the extent of a yoke of oxen. With these to help his father, he felt free to seek his own niche in life.

George was a fearless, powerful, energetic man, skillful with his hands and quick mentally as he was physically. He had almost Samsonian strength and endurance. No man of his acquaintance could match him. By the time he left the Bowen farm he knew as much about the rivers, forests, footpaths, and wagon roads as he did about farming in all of its aspects. But first he tried the meat business.

He went to live briefly in the Eagle Hotel in Charlestown and went into the meat business with Dexter Eradford. After two years they dissolved partnership and George continued alone for awhile before he gave it up in 1879. Before that happened, he met and married a Charlestown girl.

Along the Acworth Road, above the Bowen farm, George Bowen met the attractive, new "school ma'am" of the little Hemlock School. She was Miss Mary Eliza Fletcher. Her background was quite different from his. The Fletchers were well-educated townspeople. They were readers and thinkers, active members of the Unitarian Church interested in history, botany, geology, genealogy, astronomy, archeology, and music. Mary's education was sufficient to qualify her as a teacher but she was also a skilled pianist. Somehow, along with her studies, she had found time to work in the shoe shop and earn the money to buy her own piano.

Mary's father, Samuel L. Fletcher, held several important and trusted positions in town. He was town clerk and postmaster in 1849. South Parish (Unitarian Church) records show that he was elected trustee, collector, and moderator from 1883 to the time of his death in 1893.

George and Mary were married by Rev. George H. Dunlap at Charlestown, October 12, 1878 "at the time of the Harvest Moon," Mary liked to remember. The

#### VIII George Gilman Bowen (Cont.)

newly-weds spent their honeymoon in the neat, attractive Fletcher home. They went to live later at the Eowen farm.

Mary, the quiet school teacher and musician, was not accustomed to the heavy work on the farm. She never spoke of it in later years but we learned that her feet gave her such pain that she had to wash dishes at the farm on her knees in a chair. For seven years she lived on the Bowen farm, helping with the housework and cooking for the men who helped on the farm and some of the men who worked for George in his tentative lumber operations.

With Charles Willard, his brother-in-law, George began his lumbering. But before they settled down to it, they and two other local men went out to Nebraska and Colorado to try their hand at sheep ranching between September, 1884 and the spring of 1885. The venture didn't work out and they returned home to stay. When George arrived he had only \$2.00 left in his pocket. He gave it to his sister, Sarah, and declared that he could take care of Mary. From that point on he stayed in his own community and set about to establish himself in the lumber business.

That same year he and Mary moved into the Lock Place in the Langdon District of Charlestown where he and Mary established a home of their own. There their first three children were born; Ernest Fletcher, Carl Kenneth, and Ruth Ellen. The outstanding event of their lives during this period was the great blizzard of 1888. The snow was so deep that they had to tunnel their way to the barn to feed the stock. It took two days to do it. With all of its hardships, Mary was exceedingly happy in their first home. They lived there until 1892.

The first wood lot that George bought, he went alone into the virgin woods where trees were so thick he could not see a clear spot in the sky. Here he felled trees and cut wood all day. Later he hired a group of young men who were called "Bowen's Indians." They were hardy, sturdy men who were so hardened to the elements that they chopped wood all winter in their bare feet. This was to prevent their slipping on the snow and ice. They delivered the wood down to a branch of the Boston and Maine Railroad at Charlestown village.

George's men were always hard workers. In those early days they worked ten hours a day, six days a week for \$1.50 a day - and the men boarded themselves. He worked harder than any of his men. But if some one of them became lazy, George would get him on the other end of a log to pile logs together. He was so fast and strong he could wear most of his men out in this or any other task. Nevertheless, morale was high among his men because he never asked them to do anything he, himself, didn't do. He was fair--and he was generous. He often gave them lumber, tools, food, and other help when they or their families were in trouble.

He romped and played with his men and the stories of his pranks and playful ways were related with hilarity by his men and their families many years afterwards. They loved to play cards during the lunch hour and gave each other fifteen minutes to bolt down their enormous lunches before starting the game. If one of the men was so slow as not to have finished on time, George, with a lightning fast sweep of his hand, would send his lunch pail and unfinished lunch clattering to the floor. The men thought this was very funny. These capers were unending. They loved it.

George's men were very kind to their horses. They took great pride in their animals and were noted for their courtesy on the roads. They made use of the



## VIII George Gilman Bowen (Cont.)

Connecticut River also. When it was frozen they transported the logs across the river on the ice to the Vermont shore, saving ten or fifteen miles of driving by the woods and bridges.

George's first mill facilities were at the Adams Water Mill in South Charlestown, N.H. Soon a new mill had to be added. Various types of planing mill operations were included at this time. By the turn of the century George G. Bowen's mills had become the center of lumber operations in that area of the Connecticut valley. Several mills, farms, and combinations of dairying interests were absorbed into the business eventually. A second mill was established in Charlestown village.

With his fast-growing business, George moved his family in 1893 to South Charlestown, a few miles away from his mills. In this vicinity there was a better school for his children and here the three older children; Ernest, Carl, and Ruth began their schooling. Here, in 1898, the fourth child, Georgene Esther, was born.

In the little settlement of South Charlestown, life became vastly better for George and Mary. There were eight or ten houses around a triangular village green, a school house, a little store, and a railroad station just down the hill. There was running water in their house but no plumbing or central heating. The village used kerosene lamps. No longer did Mary have to feed George's lumber men but, in addition to her housework, she continued to help him with his bookkeeping and correspondence. There were no typewriters for her use and so she wrote out all of his paper work in her beautiful penmanship.

These years at South Charlestown saw further expansion of the Bowen lumber industry and with it a careful planning for the "Dream House" that George would build for Mary. He began saving aside some of his choicest pieces of lumber for several years before he built the new home at 21 Forest Street, Bellows Falls, Vt. To this big house they moved in December, 1902.

The new house had everything that George could imagine in modern conveniences. It had eighteen rooms on three floors, not including the unfinished store rooms, and basement laundry. There were running water, bath and laundry tubs, toilet rooms, electric lights, and hot-air heating. With a growing family, visiting relatives, friends, and two "hired girls" there never seemed to be too much room. The big house was filled to overflowing with music, laughter, merriment, and work for the parents.

George's new home was seven miles away from the mill in South Charlestown and it took him one hour by team to drive the distance. He had to leave the house in Bellows Falls by four or five A.M. He was gone at least a twelve hour day but he regarded this as a good investment in order that his children could have the best possible education available. He wanted his children to finish high school and go to college. Bellows Falls, at the junction of two railroad systems, had seemed to him to have the most promise for the future education of the children.

Mary, however, was fearful and distrustful of college life for girls. She didn't want her girls to be subjected to such debauchery as she imagined. So she and George reached a compromise understanding; the boys would be sent to college, the girls would not. And that was that. Together, they formed an immovable stand. No child of theirs dared to challenge their joint decision.



## VIII George Gilman Bowen (Cont.)

The house at Bellows Falls, the yard, the barn, the garage (added around 1915) seemed eternally busy and happy. There were horses to drive, automobiles to drive, traverses, tobaggans, sleds, skis, and snowshoes in the winter. There was a boat and a cottage for the boys on the Connecticut River. There were piano lessons for the girls, band practice and evenings at home of music for the boys and their friends. Ernest played violin and the French horn, Carl played the piano and cornet. Ruth played the piano. George was learning piano and violin. Mary often accompanied them on the piano or made butternut candy while George popped corn, peeled apples, and hummed along as the amateur musicians played in the evening.

The three older children married and left home between the years of 1911 - 1913. Soon thereafter the home was overflowing with the married children, their mothers-in-law, and the grandchildren. George tried to take his sons into his business with increasing difficulty. Neither of them were trained or experienced in lumbering or farming. Because of his own limited experiences in formal education, George expected his sons to step out of college and begin where he, himself, had left off with the business. It wasn't working.

On Thanksgiving Day, 1916, when all of the children were to come back home for dinner, Mary was stricken with a stroke from which she never recovered. She died October 24, 1917 in her Dream House at 21 Forest Street. George was sixty-four years old and was looking forward to retirement when Mary died. After that, he decided not to keep house himself. He invited his daughter, Ruth Bowen Jewett, and her family to move into the big house and to take charge of it. This part of his plan worked out well for him. The Jewetts made a home for him until he died in Bellows Falls in 1942.

His plans for his business, his ill-advised decisions about investments in an automobile business for his son, and his lack of supervision of his own lumber business brought on the complete failure in which he lost all of his property, including the big house. Because of his losses and disappointments, the last years of George's life were sad for him.

The life of George Gilman Bowen will not have been told unless there is somewhere an indication of its predominating quality and texture, which was characterized by exuberance, by gentleness with children, and animals, by friendliness with all people. He was courtly with women, boisterous in play with men, and generous with those in need. Contemporaries in all works of life were devoted to him.

One friend who knew him well was the Rev. Frances A. Kimball. She wrote of him after his death, "In all my list of friends I think I never knew one who crowded so much that was really worthwhile into his days. Work and play and good neighborliness--things that helped so many of us to travel the road more easily and more happily."

"He made his own crown out of everyday opportunities which came his way--but he wore it in his heart--not on his head. That would not have suited him at all."



Children of  
Ernest Fletcher Bowen and Ina Adelia Lamont

- X. 1. Conradene Booth Bowen  
Born: Apr. 1, 1913, Charlestown,  
New Hampshire  
Married: June 15, 1936, Charles-  
town, New Hampshire  
Degrees: Graduated University of  
New Hampshire, Durham, N. H.,  
June 18, 1934. Bachelor of  
Science. Major in Home Economics.  
Children: 3
- = Bradley Marshall Cooper, son of  
Leslie G. and Maude Marshall Cooper  
of Bloomfield, Vt.  
Born: Nov. 26, 1908, Lisbon, N. H.  
Degrees: Graduated University of  
New Hampshire, Durham, N. H.,  
June, 1931.  
Bachelor of Science in Engineer-  
ing.  
Military Service: Veteran of World  
War II. Commissioned Second  
Lieutenant in U.S. Army Reserve.  
Active duty from Dec. 1940 to  
February 1946, serving three  
years in the Central Pacific  
Theatre. Discharged a Colonel.  
Decoration: Awarded the Bronze  
Star Medal in the Marianas  
Campaign.
- X. 2. Patricia Lamont Bowen  
Born: Sept. 20, 1917, Bellows  
Falls, Vt.  
Married: June 1, 1940, Milford,  
New Hampshire  
Children: 2
- = Leroy William Davis, son of William  
and Martha Coles Davis of Lisbon,  
New Hampshire.  
Born: Nov. 2, 1912, New Britain,  
Conn.  
Graduated: Long Island Agricultur-  
al and Technical Institute,  
Farmingdale, N. Y. in 1931.
- X. 3. Bruce Fletcher Bowen  
Born: Mar. 22, 1924, Bellows  
Falls, Vt.  
Married: July 11, 1948,  
Falmouth, Me.  
Degrees: Graduated University of  
New Hampshire, Durham, N. H.  
June 13, 1948. Bachelor of  
Science in Mechanical Engineer-  
ing.  
Military Service: Veteran of  
World War II. Enlisted Dec.  
1942.  
Entered active service 1943.  
Was Technician Third Grade in  
the Army Medical Corps.  
Honorably discharged January,  
1946.  
Children: 3
- = Margery Laird Martin, daughter of  
Norman M. and Marion Laird Martin  
of West Falmouth, Me.  
Born: Aug. 26, 1925 in Boston,  
Massachusetts  
Degrees: Graduated University of  
New Hampshire, Durham, N. H.,  
June 8, 1947.  
Bachelor of Science in Business.





Children of  
Carl Kenneth Bowen and Ruth Anna Wells

- X. 1. Carl Kenneth Bowen, Jr.  
Born: June 28, 1913, Cleveland,  
Ohio  
Unmarried  
Degrees: Graduated U.S. Military  
Academy, West Point, N. Y.,  
June 12, 1936.  
Commissioned Second Lieutenant;  
Promoted Captain in 1940.  
Military Service: Veteran of  
World War II. Promoted  
Lieutenant Colonel in Army Air  
Corps.  
Was Group Commander of 55th  
Fighter Command.  
Acting Commanding Officer of  
McChord Field Air Base, Wash.  
from June 7, 1942 till death.  
Died: Aug. 1, 1942 when his  
plane crashed on Haystack Mt.,  
east of Mt. Vernon, Washington.
- X. 2. Gilman Wells Bowen  
Born: Apr. 3, 1916, Charlestown,  
New Hampshire  
Married: May 17, 1941, Wilder, Vt.  
Children: None  
= Barbara Preschner Michner, daughter  
of Rudy and Mary Madeline Force  
Michner of Claremont, N. H.  
Born: Oct. 11, 1918, Nashua, N. H.
- X. 3. Bradleigh Bowen  
Born: Sept. 8, 1918, Charlestown,  
New Hampshire  
Married: Dec. 7, 1941, Burlington,  
Vermont  
Degrees: Graduated Mary Hitchcock  
Memorial Hospital, Burlington,  
Vt., Feb. 15, 1931. Nursing  
Certificate June 16, 1941.  
Degree in Registered Nursing.  
Children: 2  
= Emery Orthello Lewis, son of Bernard  
P. and Sibyl Kathryn Emery of  
Montpelier, Vt.  
Born: June 13, 1914, Omaha,  
Nebraska  
Degrees: Graduated University of  
Vermont, Burlington, Vt. in  
1938. Bachelor of Science de-  
gree.  
Doctor of Medicine degree from  
University of Vermont in 1942.
4. Barbara Bowen  
Born: May 20, 1922, Bellows Falls,  
Vermont  
Married: June 25, 1945,  
La Guira, Venezuela  
Divorced: Volusia County, Florida,  
November, 1952.  
Degrees: Graduated Bryant College,  
Providence, R. I., Aug. 8, 1941;  
awarded a Secretarial Science  
diploma.  
Children: None  
= Thomas Frank Kearns, son of Thomas  
and Marcella England Kearns of  
Middlesboro, Ky.  
Born: Nov. 2, 1908, Middlesboro,  
Kentucky





Children of  
Ruth Ellen Bowen and William Chase Jewett

- X. George William Jewett  
Born: Jan. 16, 1919, Bellows Falls,  
Vermont  
Married: Jan. 7, 1945, Brookline,  
Massachusetts  
Degrees: Graduated Northeastern  
University, Boston, Mass., June 16,  
1942.  
Bachelor of Science in Electrical  
Engineering.  
Graduated U.S. Naval Postgraduate  
School, May, 1949.  
B.S. in Engineering Electronics  
M.S. in Engineering Electronics  
Naval Service: Veteran of World War II  
June 10, 1942, commissioned an  
Ensign April 1943 to Dec. 1943,  
U.S.S. Hughes DD 410.  
Jan. 1944 to Dec. 1944, Staff  
Destroyer Squadron.  
Mar. 1945 to end of war, Project  
Cadillac.  
Sept. 1, 1957, promoted Commander,  
Head, Instrumentation Branch,  
Flight Test Div., Naval Air Test  
Center, Patuxent River, Md.  
Children: 4
- = Martha Louise Smith, daughter of  
Richard Herbert and Marie King  
Smith of Newton, Mass.  
Born: Apr. 29, 1919, Washington,  
D.C.  
Degrees: Graduated Boston Univer-  
sity College of Music, Boston,  
Mass., June 16, 1941. Bachelor  
of Music. Major in Public  
School Music.



Children of Conradene Bowen and Bradley M. Cooper

- XI. (1) Rosalie Cooper  
Born: Jan. 1, 1938, Nashua, N. H. = Allvin L. Leonard, son of Mrs.  
Married: Dec. 6, 1958, Littleton, N. H. Carl Leonard of Littleton, N. H.
- XI. (2) Phebe Cooper Children: 1  
Born: Apr. 29, 1946, Littleton, N. H.
- XI. (3) Peter Leslie Cooper  
Born: May 4, 1948, Littleton, N. H.

Children of Patricia Bowen and Leroy W. Davis

- XI. (1) Janet Fletcher Davis  
Born: Oct. 15, 1942, Concord, N. H.
- XI. (2) Leroy William Davis, II  
Born: May 20, 1946, Concord, N. H.

Children of Bruce Bowen and Margery Martin Bowen

- XI. (1) Bonnie Louise Bowen  
Born: Nov. 21, 1950, Darby, Pa.
- XI. (2) Martin Fletcher Bowen  
Born: Aug. 6, 1953, Blue Island, Ill.
- XI. (3) Matthew Ernest Bowen, Born: Apr. 6, 1959, Harvey, Ill.

Children of Bradleigh Bowen and Emery O. Lewis

- XI. (1) David Kenneth Lewis  
Born: Feb. 11, 1943, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.
- XI. (2) Barbara Bowen Lewis (Adopted)  
Born: May 24, 1948, New Bedford, Mass.

Children of George W. and Martha Smith Jewett

- XI. (1) Annharid Jewett  
Born: Feb. 28, 1946, San Diego, Calif.
- XI. (2) Richard Chase Jewett  
Born: June 27, 1947, Annapolis, Md.
- XI. (3) George Bowen Jewett  
Born: Jan. 27, 1951, Quanset Point, R. I.
- XI. (4) Nancy Marie Jewett  
Born: Oct. 22, 1953, Bethesda, Md.

Children of Rosalie Cooper and Allvin L. Leonard

- XII. (1) David Eric Leonard  
Born: Aug. 4, 1959, Littleton, N. H.





The

Willard - Way

Upham - Glassman

Branches

## Children of

### John Gilman Bowen and Parthena Putnam

- VIII. (1) Sarah Lucinda Bowen = Charles Willard, Jr., son of Charles Willard and Nancy W. Shirtliff of Charlestown, N. H.  
 Born: Feb. 23, 1843, Charlestown, N.H.  
 Married: Dec. 19, 1864, Charlestown, N. H.  
 Children: 2 (natural) 1 (adopted)  
     1. Nellie Eliza, born Jan. 27, 1870  
     2. Minnie, born Dec. 23, 1881, died Jan. 2, 1882  
     3. Fanny Olivia A. Lindquist, Born May 6, 1895 (adopted)  
     Married: Edwin M. Hall  
     Died: June 12, 1946
- IX. Nellie Eliza Willard = Dr. Frank E. Way, son of James P. Way and Eliza Stock of Springfield, Vt.  
 Born: Jan. 27, 1870, Charlestown, N.H.  
 Married: June 5, 1890, Charlestown, N. H.  
 Children: 2  
 Died: Feb. 11, 1934, Wahoo, Nebr.

## Children of

### Nellie Eliza Willard and Dr. Frank E. Way

- X. (1) Charles Willard Way = Louise Carolyn Mapes, daughter of Mary Christina Coventry and Lewis Sherman Mapes of Schuyler, Nebr.  
 Born: June 13, 1892, Wahoo, Nebr.  
 Married: Sept. 23, 1918, Fort Worth, Texas  
 Children: 2
- XI. (A) Virginia Kathryn Way = Sidney Nelson Held, son of Minnie Grace Pratt and Albert A. Held of Lincoln, Nebr.  
 Born: Mar. 1, 1920, Wahoo, Nebr.  
 Married: Aug. 18, 1942, Washington, D.C.  
 Children: 3
- XII. (a) Harriet Louise Held  
 Born: June 5, 1944, Wahoo, Nebr.
- XII. (b) Charles Nelson Held  
 Born: Dec. 2, 1945, Wahoo, Nebr.
- XII. (c) Craig Albert Held  
 Born: Aug. 2, 1952, Wahoo, Nebr.
- XI. (B) Ruth Louise Way = Daryl Wesley Anderson, son of Mabel Skoog and Walter A. Anderson of Wahoo, Nebr.  
 Born: Sept. 9, 1923, Wahoo, Nebr.  
 Married: Aug. 9, 1948, Waterloo, Iowa  
 Children: 2

(Cont.)



Children of  
Nellie Eliza Willard and Dr. Frank E. Way

- XI. (B) Ruth Louise Way (Cont.) = Daryl Wesley Anderson  
 Children: 2
- XII. (a) Todd Charles Anderson  
 Born: Jan. 25, 1950, Wahoo, Nebr.
- XII. (b) Christie Louise Anderson  
 Born: Feb. 29, 1952, Wahoo, Nebr.
- X. (2) James Laurence Way = Mabel Merle Sutton, daughter of  
 Born: April 1, 1896, Wahoo, Nebr. Anna Marie Ellison and William  
 Married: Oct. 15, 1919, Wahoo, Richard Sutton  
 Nebr. Born: April 12, 1896, Wahoo, Nebr.  
 Children: 2
- XI. (A) Annelle Maurine Way = Lt. Keith Albert Whitaker, son of  
 Born: July 7, 1920, Wahoo, Nebr. Eunice W. and Henry Lyman Whitaker  
 Married: June 2, 1943, Born: March 9, 1919, Wahoo, Nebr.  
 West Point, N. Y.  
 Children:
- XI. (B) James Laurence Way, Jr. = Evelyn Garrad, daughter of Nora  
 Born: July 7, 1920, Wahoo, Nebr. Adeline Williams and Raymond  
 Married: Sept. 3, 1948, Rogers Garrad  
 Shreveport, La. Born: Dec. 19, 1929, Shreveport, La.  
 Children: 2
- XII. (a) Patricia Ann Way  
 Born: Dec. 3, 1950,  
 Shreveport, La.
- XII. (b) John Laurence Way  
 Born: Oct. 25, 1956,  
 Lincoln, Nebr.
- VIII. (2) Eliza Jane Bowen = William Henry Upham, son of Francis  
 Born: Feb. 7, 1848, Charles- Upham and Drucilla Watkins Atwood  
 town, N. H. Born: May 24, 1844, Plainfield, Vt.  
 Married: Dec. 28, 1870, Died: Mexico, Mo.  
 Charlestown, N. H.  
 Children: 2  
 Died: June 4, 1922, Bellows  
 Falls, Vt.

Children of  
Eliza Jane Bowen and William Henry Upham

- IX. (1) Francis Bowen Upham  
 Born: Mar. 24, 1881, Bellows Falls,  
 Vt.  
 Married: (1st) June 12, 1907 = Christine L. Armstrong, daughter of  
 Children: None Henry C. Armstrong and Josephine  
 Divorced: Dec. 2, 1927 McGee

(Cont.)

Children of

Eliza Jane Bowen and William Henry Upham

IX. (1) Francis Bowen Upham (Cont.)

Married: (2nd) June 27, 1930  
Degrees: Graduated U.S. Military  
Academy June 5, 1905  
Military Service: Served as  
1st & 2nd Lieutenant, Coast  
Guard Artillery Corps, U.S.  
Army; Major, Inspector General's  
Dept., Oregon Natl. Guard;  
Major and Lt. Col., Ordnance  
Dept., National Army with A.E.F.  
in World War I; commissioned  
Col. Adjutant General, Reserve  
Corps, U.S. Army.

Children: 1

= Cleonice June Martin, daughter of  
James Collins Martin and Ophelia  
Francis Akers  
Born: Mar. 4, 1904, Laurenceville,  
Ill.

IX. (2) George William Upham

Born: Feb. 13, 1883, Bellows  
Falls, Vt.

Unmarried

Education: Was enrolled in the  
Massachusetts Institute of  
Technology, taking electrical  
engineering when he was taken  
ill.

Died: Feb. 12, 1916, Bellows  
Falls, Vt.

Children of

Francis Bowen Upham and Cleonice June Martin

X. Beth June Upham

Born: Feb. 4, 1934, Olney, Ill.  
Married: Sept. 10, 1954, Dallas,  
Texas

Children: 1

= Rev. James Hendrix Glassman, D.D.,  
son of William Glassman and Myrna  
Hendrix  
Born: Dec. 5, 1925, Seattle, Wash.

Children of

Beth June Upham and Rev. James Hendrix Glassman

XI.















